THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,165 WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 1996 WEATHER: Overcast, cold and misty (IR 45P) 40p

THE TABLOID
Aids: the new battleground

THE TABLOID
Bridget Jones: hell on skis

COMMENT
Why do black men go mad?

Abuse scandal hits Merseyside

EXCLUSIVE

Roger Dobson

Police have launched a third major investigation into allegations of sexual and physical abuse in children's homes in the North-west, this time on Merseyside where a team of detectives is trying to trace 3,000 former residents of the homes.

The Merseyside investigation, centred on 15 children's homes and covering allegations stretching back over the last 20 years, comes hard on the heels of inquiries into widespread abuse in homes in North Wales and Cheshire.

It will fuel claims that there was paedophile activity stretching across the North-west and beyond in the 1970s and into the 1980s, with children being moved between homes in the region and abused systematically.

A team of 20 detectives set up by Merseyside Police to investigate the allegations of abuse which date back to the 1970s are expected to work for at least the next 12 months on the inquiry, which may be extended to other homes.

As *The Independent* revealed earlier this year, in neighbouring Cheshire nearly 4,000 former residents of homes have been traced by a special squad of detectives leading Britain's biggest investigation into institutional child abuse. Several former care workers have been jailed and the investigation is still under way.

Across the border in Clwyd, half a dozen care workers have been jailed for offences against children, and a £6m judicial public inquiry into the scale of abuse at homes in North Wales is due to start in January. In the Clwyd homes about 100 young people were abused and at least 12 people have died in circumstances related to their experiences in the homes. During the police inquiry more than 3,000 statements were taken.

The sheer size of the investigations in the North-west, involving tracing or interviewing up to 10,000 people, will also renew calls for a wider Royal Commission into what really went on inside children's homes in the Seventies and Eighties.

Parents of children who have been abused in Cheshire have already called for such an inquiry. "We don't want it to stop at North Wales. We want a public inquiry here too to show people what went on," a spokesman said.

Operation Care launched by Merseyside Police is the latest in a series of major inquiries into allegations of abuse dating back to the 1970s at children's homes. It follows a smaller inquiry by the force, Operation Van Gogh, which centred on another two homes and resulted in four separate convictions with sentences totalling 47 years.

Detective Superintendent John Robbins, who heads the inquiry, said yesterday: "We will be tracing about 3,000 people are we are looking at 15-plus homes.

"What we have found is that victims are now recognising that things had gone wrong and that people will now listen to them. There was a perception that years ago people would not listen to these sorts of complaints. Now we are listening we are getting people coming forward.

"I have also been very proactive in getting people to come forward too because we feel there is a need to deal with this thing in its entirety. I invite victims to speak with my officers by letter or by knocking on doors. We expect to interview more than 3,000."

There have been claims that an organised paedophile network operated in the North-west in the Seventies and Eighties. But senior police officers believe it was more informal and haphazard.

Jobs in children's homes in those days were low-paid and difficult to fill, and were often run in isolation from the main social services departments. Children were also frequently transferred between homes and the workers themselves regularly changed jobs.

One detective involved in the North-west investigations said, "I don't think there was an organised and structured paedophile ring as it is commonly seen. It was people attracted to the work for the wrong reason and then networking. I interviewed a convicted paedophile in prison and he said the key was like-minded people. He told me, 'If I walk into a room I know within three minutes the people who think like me.' "

Earlier this year *The Independent* campaigned to improve conditions in children's homes, introduce better training programmes for staff and for tighter controls on the activities of convicted paedophiles, some of whom had found it easy to move around the homes.

The Government subsequently ordered a national inquiry into the systematic sexual and physical abuse suffered by hundreds if not thousands of young people. It also announced plans for a national register of convicted sex offenders, including an index of paedophiles.

While a largest police inquiries have been launched in the northwest, there have been other scandals involving homes in Leicestershire, Islington, north London and other cases have emerged in Norfolk, Hereford and Worcester, Essex and Berkshire.

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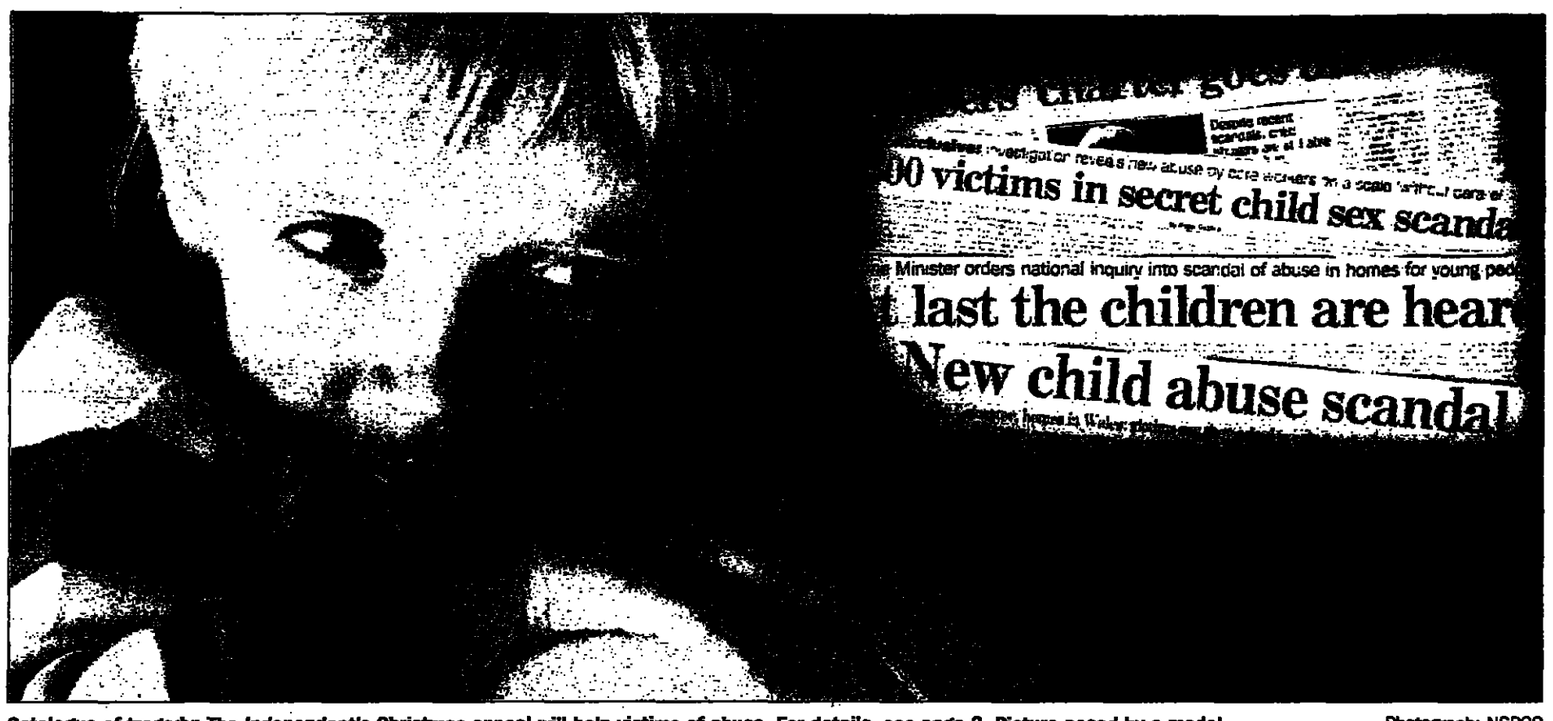

Catalogue of tragedy: *The Independent's* Christmas appeal will help victims of abuse. For details, see page 2. Picture posed by a model Photograph: NSPCC

Through the night shopping this Christmas

Glenda Cooper

This Christmas you can go right off your trolley. Two major supermarket chains have announced all-night opening in the final seasonal rush. For those who like to leave stuffing their basket to the very last moment, Safeway and Asda are opening some of their stores all day and night up to Christmas Eve.

It is the latest move in a battle between supermarkets for shoppers' loyalty - following singles' nights, pensioners' happy hours and blokes' nights to help men panicking about what to buy partners for Christmas.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said yesterday it was also considering opening some of its stores for a non-stop shop, among other options. In fact, it is known that some of the larger Tesco stores in the South have already drawn up plans for 24-hour opening.

Sainsbury, Somerfield and Waitrose have decided against 24-hour opening, contenting themselves instead with extended hours. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's said that stores would be open until 10pm on the Monday: "We have experience of all-night shopping in America but we didn't feel that there would be the level of customer demand to justify staying open all night in Britain."

Safeway's open all hours policy is billed as a way of avoiding Christmas queues. Its stores in Brent Cross in north London, and Edinburgh will for the first time be open for more than 33 hours – from 8.30am on Monday 23 December to 6pm on Christmas Eve. The first 50 festive customers after midnight will be given a free warming cup of tea and mince pie.

Asda, which started the trend by opening around the clock last year, plans to keep trading in four stores right up until midnight strikes on Christmas Eve. The stores which will be open for 40 hours non-stop will be Clapham, south London; Edinburgh; Patchway in Bristol; and Watford.

So where is this depraved and violent diet? Not on my telly.

by Suzanne Moore

Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, launched a four-point package to crackdown on explicit violence on television.

This should please those who have been salivating over "the dark and brutal side of television" for some time, although with its emphasis on violence rather than sex this is doubtful.

Also doubtful is whether this ineffectual package will persuade us that the Government, spurred on by the demands for a "moral revival" in the wake of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence's murder and the Dunblane tragedy, is trying to reduce the general level of violence in society.

It is fairly easy, after all, to find a consensus around the on-screen representation of violence. Most parents are far more concerned about scenes of violence than on-screen sex, although the two are always linked as if they were equally objectionable.

Right-wingers have been calling for a crackdown on "the degrading diet of sex, drugs and violence" that we feed our children.

Note that violence comes in only at third place, after sex and drugs. This degrading "diet of sex, drugs and violence" is found, apparently, in the most popular of the pre-watershed programming – *EastEnders*, *The Bill* and *Brookside* are singled out for particular condemnation.

As always one has to wonder whether those who feel that our nation's youth is being corrupted by soap operas actually watch any of these programmes.

Certainly children, unlike those who would save us from ourselves and from our televisions, appear to grasp that they are watching drama rather than documentary.

The soaps are also, in their own way, intensely moralistic – promoting as they do the value notions of neighbourliness, and community and family life.

The controversial incest storyline of *Brookside* did not need to carry a government health warning: "Don't try this at home, kids", because rather than in any way glamorising incest it has made it look relentlessly dreary, with the siblings Nat and Georgia constantly arguing or crying while the lives of the rest of their family is destroyed.

EastEnders is also being persecuted for the shooting of the character Ian Beale yet what has really upset the new moralists is not any kind of violence but the gay kiss between Tony and Simon and the programme's discussion of HIV.

Programmes that do contain violence, like *Prime Suspect* and *Cracker*, incidentally two of our finest dramas, are already shown after the watershed.

Mrs Bottomley has voiced concern about the number of children who have television sets in their bedrooms yet surely this is a problem of parenting rather than broadcasting.

Pressing for more rigorous observance of the watershed will do little to change the numbers of unsupervised children viewing unsuitable programmes.

Crimewatch and all those other crime reconstruction programmes, I would suggest, are unsuitable viewing both for children and for discerning adults.

Of course no one wants their children to watch scenes of gratuitous violence but on the whole the watershed is already being observed by broadcasters. Using our fear of a violent society to try and censor some of the most socially responsive drama is irresponsible.

The gratuitous linking of sex and violence only signals our own moral confusion as well as making an increasingly illiberal agenda. Unless we sever this link we will never have a grown up discussion about what it is that we are truly afraid of.

It's time we did but surely the place to do it is not in front of the children.

Bottomley's stick, page 7

Controversial kiss: Incest between brother and sister in Channel 4's *Brookside*

QUICKLY

Leah's drug warning
Leah Betts, the teenager from Essex who died after taking ecstasy on her 18th birthday last year, was advised by her best friend to take only half the tablet which claimed her life, a court was told. Page 3

Secret life of judge
One of Australia's most respected former judges, David Yeldham, who committed suicide last month, had confessed to a secret life of paying men for sex in public lavatories. Page 11

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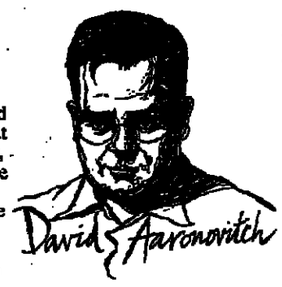
news

Cap'n bails out frantically as boat drifts



Mr Major's *hebdomas horribilis* may be over, but he will hardly be rejoicing. Last week – as lightning cracked around the rigging – his ship was buffeted by storms of such ferocity that spars cracked, sails were rent, and salt water poured into the heads. But above the raging of the howling winds could be heard the metallic and monotonous sound of one lone voice shouting orders to the crew. "Splice the mainbrace! Batten down the hatches! The position is perfectly clear!".

Lashed to the main-mast (albeit involuntarily, courtesy of his thoughtful first and second mates) Cap'n John sang his song of defiance in the teeth of a whirlwind. Who could not have a grudging admiration for his tenacity?

There was the good ship 'Tory', all tattered sails and battered planks, but everything was eerily calm

But there is something worse than a storm at sea, and that is the quiet afterwards. At least the ocean-tossed mariner in the storm's eye is still somehow at the centre of things, capable in some small way of controlling events. When the giant waves subside and the wind drops, he becomes quite powerless, destined to drift in his damaged boat until thirst, hunger or miraculous rescue supervenes.

Yesterday, at Prime Minister's Questions, we enjoyed few of the previous encounter's histrionics. There was the good ship *Tory*, all tattered sails and battered planks, but everything was eerily calm. Tony Blair circled lazily in a spanking new motor boat and called over to the PM through his loud hailer. Did Cap'n Major agree with Sir Leon Brittan (Tory grandee and Euro commissioner) that Tory divisions on Europe were "damaging Britain's negotiating position?"

The problem for the PM was that if he simply replied "yes", then the obvious answer would be for him and his party to bugger off. So he tried suggesting that (a) "when the House of Commons is divided on any issue", Britain's position was weakened (a silly analysis, since this has never happened and we have still won two world wars) and (b) "what also weakens it is that many of the socialist governments in Europe are expecting an easy ride" were there a Labour government (that is everyone expects the Tories to bugger off soon and will not take him seriously).

The Labour leader's propellors churned their easy passage through the calm waters, the pilot adjusting his yachting cap and continuing thus, "could I just suggest to the Prime Minister that there is less clear water between him, one part of his Cabinet and this side of the House than between him and most of his own party?" And indeed Tony's sleek prow did seem to be nudging the shivered timbers of SS *Tory*. "The position is perfectly clear," mumbled the PM through cracked lips.

When Mr Blair sat back down and turned his helm for land, practically all that could be heard was the plaintive cry of the seagulls (Tory Nigel Evans desperately talking up the threat of the minimum wage to his "beautiful" Ribble Valley) and all that could be seen – in the shape of Teresa Gorman (Tory Europhobe, Billericay) – was a glimpse of a circling shark's fin. Was he aware, bubbled Jaws menacingly, that a MORI poll in Essex showed that 60 per cent wanted out of Europe, gnash? Time for a referendum, surely? "What this country needs is a rational debate about Europe," was Mr Major's best response.

The most telling moment of all, however, occurred when Lynne Jones (Labour, Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked whether he should not now resign as Prime Minister. "The simple answer", said the defiant Cap'n, "is NO!"

And there was complete silence, save for the faint gurgle of a vessel steadily shipping water.

Parliament was misled about Gulf syndrome

Christopher Bellamy and Ian Burrell

The Ministry of Defence misled Parliament over the use of organophosphate pesticides by British troops in the 1991 Gulf war, the Government admitted yesterday as it announced two new studies into "Gulf-war illness" which has affected almost 1,000 British veterans.

The studies, costing £1.3m over three years, will involve 12,000 service and former service personnel. They will try to find out whether ill-health is more prevalent among Gulf veterans than others and, if so, why, and to examine their reproductive health and any effects on their children.

There will also be an investigation into how the MoD came to tell Parliament that organophosphates were not used in the war, when in fact they had been employed on a large scale.

Nicholas Soames, minister for the armed forces, told MPs that he was releasing the detailed programme of vaccinations offered to troops as protection against attack with biological weapons, such as anthrax, botulinum toxin and bubonic plague. He added that he was appointing a new medical liaison officer with the US Department of Defense to gain as much information from the Americans as possible and avoid duplication of work.

But British experts still do not believe there is a single identifiable "disease" or "syndrome" attributable to Gulf-war service. Yesterday, the Surgeon-General, Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Revell and Professor Alan McGregor of King's College London, chairman of the Medical Research Council's Advisory Committee on the Gulf war, referred to "Gulf-war illness", but insisted this was merely a form of shorthand. "There is absolutely no evidence there is a single entity," Professor McGregor said.

Nicholas Soames: Studies into Gulf-war illness

The MoD also released part of its report on the use of organophosphate pesticides. The team found that incorrect answers had been given to parliamentary questions on the use of these pesticides in 1994, and that the same wrong answers were repeatedly submitted in subsequent replies.

Dr David Clark, the Labour spokesman on defence, said that Gulf-war veterans had undergone "three years of unnecessary suffering". Mr Clark said he had demanded a full epidemiological study – like that announced yesterday – three years ago, and that Mr Soames had written to him in February 1995 saying it was "not appropriate".

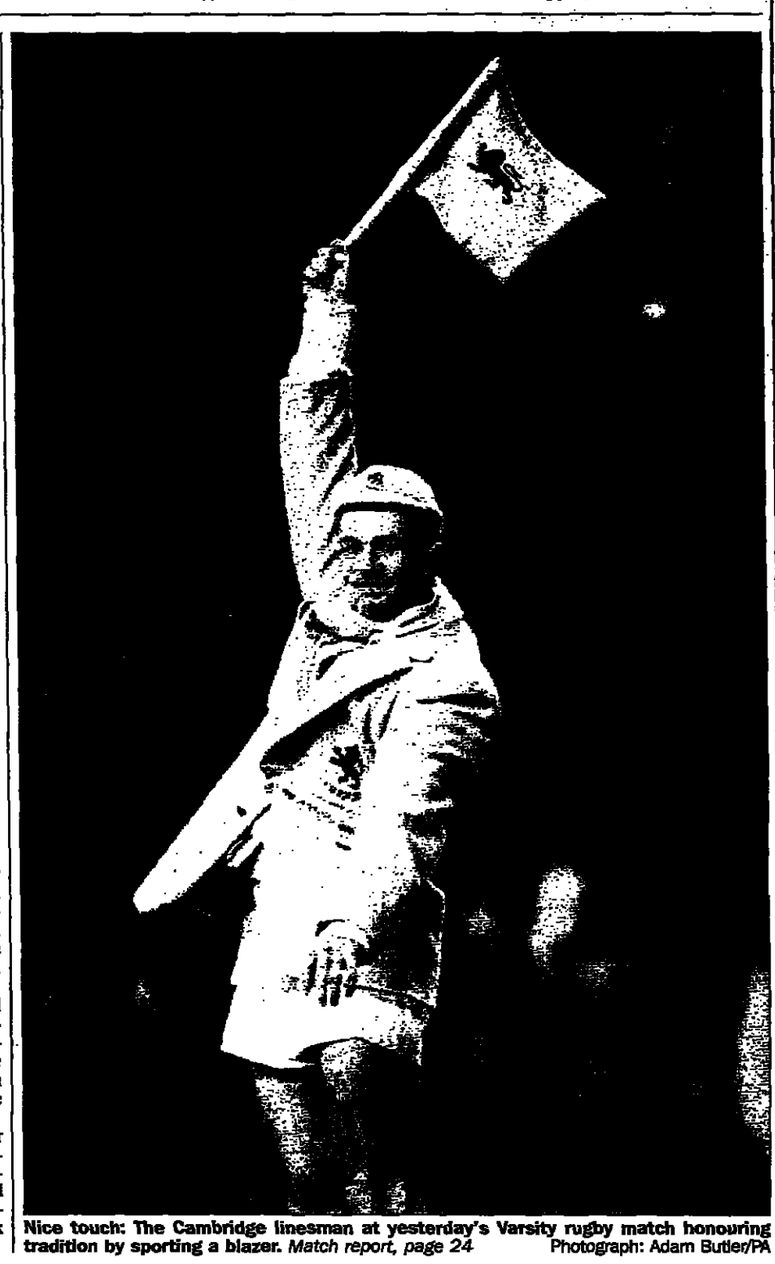
The proposals were attacked by Dr Goran Jamal, an expert in the harmful effects of organophosphate pesticides, who said the study was "a waste of time".

Dr Jamal, who is based at the Institute of Neurological Sciences, at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, said that scientists needed to discover the causes of the Gulf-war illnesses first and carry out the epidemiological studies later to confirm their findings.

"You are not looking for known illnesses," he said, "you are dealing with a new phenomenon with a new collection of symptoms. They will make this study so diffused that it will be a total waste of time."

Earlier this month Dr Jamal resigned from the medical scientific panel advising three government departments on the effects of organophosphates on human health because of the under which he was put.

Hilary Meredith, a solicitor representing around 1,000 veterans who are claiming compensation for illness suffered since the war, said the Government was now starting to back down but only "inch by inch".


Nice touch: The Cambridge linesman at yesterday's Varsity rugby match honouring tradition by sporting a blazer. *Match report, page 24* Photograph: Adam Butler/PA

significant shorts

Former IRA terrorist to meet MPs

The former IRA terrorist Sean O'Callaghan, who has reformed and begun a campaign against his former commanders, is due to visit the House of Commons today to meet senior Tory MPs.

The backbench Northern Ireland committee believes Mr O'Callaghan will be able to provide a crucial insight into IRA thinking. He has warned that a second ceasefire would be tactical to put the Government on the defensive, and bring about a merger between the SDLP and Sinn Fein – enabling Gerry Adams to outflank John Hume and come to represent the nationalist community in the North. Mr Callaghan's presence in the House will be seen by left-wing Labour MPs as justification for their meeting last month with Sinn Fein leaders. *Colin Brown*

'Breakthrough' on arthritis

A 68-year-old American woman has become the first recipient of gene therapy to treat rheumatoid arthritis, scientists said yesterday.

Initial results of the trial at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center indicate that the insertion of a new, anti-arthritic gene into the patient was successful, and the protein it codes for was being made in the cells of her diseased knuckle joint. It is not known whether the protein will continue to inhibit the disease in the long term, but it is being hailed as a breakthrough which paves the way for a new approach. The disease affects about 600,000 people in the UK. *Liz Hunt*

Fur ban to be challenged

Animal welfare campaigners are urging Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commisioner, to take a robust stand today when he is challenged by the Canadians over a ban on fur imports.

European environment ministers last Monday rejected a proposal that would have allowed continued trade in furs from countries using steel-jawed traps to catch live animals. The US and Canada are the main exporters. From 1 April, customs officers will have to implement a ban on furs from 13 species, including beaver, sable and ermine, that was originally planned for January 1996. Exports to Britain from the US and Canada are worth around £14.3m and £6.2m a year respectively. *Stephen Goodwin*

Police accused over clashes

Seven police officers were remanded on bail yesterday accused of a variety of offences arising from clashes with new-age travellers on their way to a music festival.

They were arrested after a Police Complaints Authority investigation into the treatment of people held during disturbances in Northwold Road, Clapton, east London, on 8 May, 1994. The officers were all based at nearby Stoke Newington police station and have been suspended from duty pending the outcome of the case.

Explorer's polar crossing in jeopardy

The attempt by British adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes's to become the first man to walk alone and unsupported across the Antarctic is in jeopardy because he is suffering from kidney stones.

Twenty-six days into the journey, Fiennes is said to be in excruciating pain and has been forced to halt. The next 48 hours will be crucial as he melts down snow to try to flush the stones through his body. It is feared he may be forced to abandon the attempt, which was intended to raise £1m for the breast cancer charity Breakthrough.

Thames to get new bridge

A British team has beaten off the challenge of 225 other entrants in an international competition to design London's first pedestrian bridge.

The Millennium Bridge will be London's first new river crossing for more than a century. It will link two of the capital's most significant public spaces and buildings - St Paul's Cathedral to the north and the area around the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art and the Globe Theatre to the south – creating a new route between the north and south banks of the river.

The winning team is headed by Foster & Partners (architects), Sir Anthony Caro (sculptor), and Ove Arup & Partners (consulting engineers).

Caravaggio goes unsold

An oil painting, believed to be Caravaggio's first known canvas, failed to reach its reserve price of £250,000 at auction in London yesterday. Dealers at yesterday's auction seemed unimpressed even though it was the first time that a work attributed to the Old Master had come up at auction for over 50 years. The portrait, entitled *Young Boy Peeling Fruit*, had been considered "lost" for 400 years. *David Lister*

90 held in police raids

Police in Merseyside arrested 90 people yesterday in a string of early morning raids as the latest phase of the Operation Bumblebee campaign against burglars. Stolen goods and drugs were recovered.

Short shrift for new drink

The drinks industry and a major charity rounded yesterday on a new product which is claimed can "convert alcohol faster" and help revellers stay sober despite indulging. They said there was no medical evidence to show Exit, a fizzy bitter lemon drink containing fructose and quinine, could speed the body's processes.

Correction

The photograph published on page 3 yesterday was of Westminster Cathedral, not the Brompton Oratory as stated in the caption.

More food poisoning cases in Scotland

Steve Boggan
Chief Reporter

The Government's handling of food safety was described as "appalling" yesterday as six more cases of E. coli poisoning were recorded in Scotland and a fresh – but unconnected – outbreak hit Lancashire.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal-Democrat leader, condemned the Tories' handling of food crises, particularly BSE, and called for the introduction of an American-style Food and Drugs Administration.

There were no more deaths yesterday in central Scotland, where E. coli food poisoning has claimed 10 lives, but the numbers of those thought to have been affected rose to 394.

In Pendle, Lancashire, four children and two adults were confirmed as being infected with the E. coli 0157 bacterium, according to the East Lancashire Health Authority. An investigation was under way to discover the source. All those infected, including two girls under four years of age, were said to be improving in hospital.

As calls continued for a judicial public inquiry into the outbreak in Scotland, instead of the more formal and potentially limited fatal accident inquiry, Mr Ashdown launched a bitter attack on the Government.

The Liberal Democrat leader told the National Consumers' Council, in London, that problems with food would continue as long as responsibility for food safety and quality rested in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, which also represented the interests of food producers. Labour, too, continued to call for a public inquiry, while Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, defended the fatal accident inquiries given the task of examining the infection in Lanarkshire.

The fatal accident inquiry, an independent judicial hearing, will take place in public but it cannot sit while criminal proceedings are being considered, or are underway. Its critics say its remit may be too limited.

The remit of a second inquiry, by a Government-appointed group of experts, is to "examine the circumstances which led to the outbreak ... and to advise on the implications for food safety and the general lessons to be learned." The seven-member committee is expected to report soon.

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How you can help heal the suffering children

Glenda Cooper

At the end of a year where *The Independent* has campaigned for victims of child abuse scandals to be given a voice, we would like you to support our Victims of Abuse appeal to help children whose lives have been devastated.

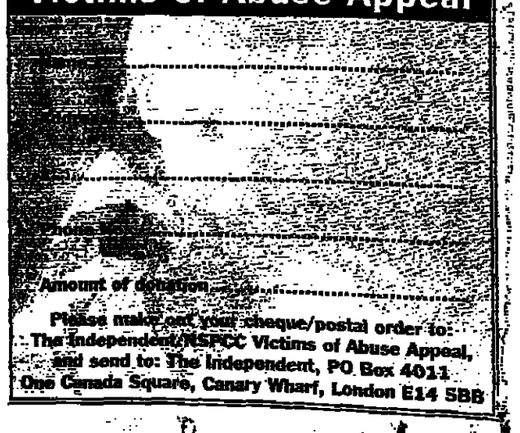
Our Christmas appeal is in support of projects run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, including its helpline, and direct support to help children who have been abused and to help prevent future abuse. The terrible toll of years of abuse suffered by more than 100 children in Clwyd was first reported by *The Independent* and was the launch-pad for a campaign which eventually won government action to tighten standards in children's homes.

But countless children's stories have never been heard. The NSPCC, Britain's leading charity specialising in child protection runs over 120 projects throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland offering counselling and therapy to abused children as well as carrying out its own investigations into allegations of child abuse.

The charity relies on donations for 85 per cent of its income. We would like you to contribute between now and Christmas. Your money will go to help projects such as the NSPCC's freephone helpline which takes on average 1,200 calls a week, the London Investigation Team, which works with police and social services to investigate paedophiles and the Kaleidoscope project in Newcastle which treats children who have abused others.

Leading article, page 13

THE INDEPENDENT/NSPCC
Victims of Abuse Appeal



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New measures will target clubland in attempt to check rising toll of drug casualties among young people

Sound advice to stop dance of death

Closing the doors: Since the drug explosion in British clubs, there have been calls to eradicate ecstasy from the rave scene Photograph: Rex Features

Charlie Bain

Clubs and drugs – the two have been inextricably linked since the 1980s, when ecstasy lit the fuse for an explosion of dance music and rave culture. According to government figures, around one million tablets of ecstasy, known as the "hug drug" are sold in Britain each week. But there have been casualties: 100 ecstasy-related deaths in Britain over the past eight years. Yesterday, new guidelines were brought in to try to cut the number of young people killed by the drug.

The new measures, drawn up by the London Drug Policy Forum, an organisation funded by the Corporation of London and the Home Office, urges London's 33 licensing authorities to work closer with nightclub owners and rave promoters to minimise the risks associated with the drug.

Under the title *Dance Till Dawn Safely*, the campaign will target the capital's 200 weekly dance events. The Forum hopes that every London borough will have the scheme in operation by this time next year and that local authorities across the country will follow in the capital's footsteps within time.

The guidelines stress greater emphasis on reducing overcrowding and overheating in clubs, increasing the availability of drinking water and ensuring that all clubs have rest areas where clubbers can cool down. The Code of Good Practice also includes the firm recommendation that all councils should set up registration schemes for door supervisors, making sure they are trained in recognising drug-related problems and have no criminal record.

At yesterday's launch in south east London, Peter Rigby, the LDPF's chairman, said that the Forum was aware of the difficulty in preventing young people from taking drugs and that the over-riding purpose of the Code was to keep people safe, raise awareness and stop more young people from dying:

"The best way to keep safe is to not to take any drugs at all," he said.

"However, we live in the real world and at the moment we know that young people will take drugs. It is vital that we do all in our power to keep them safe."

Mr Rigby said that many club owners believe that their clubs are not involved in the rave culture and claim that measures to reduce the risk of drug taking are unnecessary.

"We would counter this argument by pointing out the impossibility of making any club 100% drug free," he said.

"Even if dealing is eradicated, club-goers may still take drugs before they arrive and may still experience drug-related problems."

The general consensus about the contents of yesterday's launch was that the new measures were merely re-iterating old concerns. However, the introduction of a door supervisory scheme was welcomed by council bosses and the police as a way of combating the growing problem of disreputable bouncers who deal in drugs

The LDPF's policy adviser, Alyson Morley, said that the Forum wanted to see bouncers from reputable firms without criminal records who are properly trained in first aid and in recognising drug-related problems. She said that metal detectors should be installed to prevent weapons being bought in to clubs and that doormen should alert management of clubbers caught with drugs, logging the offence in an incident book which should be kept for a year. The news was welcomed by Superintendent Martin Jauch of the Metropolitan Police's Clubs and Vice squad who said that rogue bouncers who deal in drugs was a growing problem for the force: "We welcome the introduction of the measures," he said, "we have a very acute door supervisors scheme in operation at the present in the West End and stopping this sort of crime is crucial."

Many leading London club owners yesterday welcomed the LDPF's proposals as a way of producing a consistent standard amongst the capital's clubs which can only help to raise the tarnished reputation of the city's rave scene. One leading nightclub owner Andy Martin, who co-owns the up-and-coming Linford Studios club in south west London said the proposals will pull some of the less reputable clubs in to line.

"The proposals are basically re-iterating a debate that has been raging for four years now, but anything that ensures the safety of the clientele should be welcomed and implemented," he said.

"Many of the reputable clubs in the city already have these policies in operation but I'm sure that many do not."

Linford Studios is a classic example of a club that runs a slick safety and security policy. Opened earlier this year, it has a resident nurse on site and operates a stringent security operation which includes plain clothes bouncers roaming the club spotting potential drug dealers.

"It is the only option in my opinion," said Mr Martin, "and there is no doubt that it makes people feel safer."

The agony of ecstasy

- According to government figures, 800,000 young people in the UK have tried ecstasy.
- The Home Office estimates that 10 per cent of 14 to 19-year-olds, have experimented with ecstasy and nearly half have been offered the drug.
- Initially enjoyed by yuppies, the drug emerged in Britain in 1982 from New York.
- It was originally an appetite-suppressant for German troops, patented in 1914.
- Chemical recipes for making ecstasy are now circulated on the Internet.

Jury hears how Leah was 'sorted' with drugs

Leah Betts was warned about the ecstasy tablet which claimed her life, a court was told yesterday. Her best friend, Sarah Cargill, told Norwich Crown Court she had advised Leah to take only half the tablet.

Miss Cargill, 18, said she was concerned the tablet was stronger than the ecstasy Leah had experimented with before. But she said Leah swallowed the whole pill and collapsed into a coma three hours later. Leah died after celebrating her 18th birthday at her parent's home in Latchingdon, Essex, in November last year.

The court has been told how she obtained the drug through a network of friends. A jury of six men and six women heard that Stephen Smith, 19, of Basildon, Essex, has admitted being involved in the supply of the drug. But Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex, denies being involved in the supply of the drug.

The jury was told how Leah and Miss Cargill had decided to buy ecstasy for Leah's birthday party on 11 November. Miss Cargill, of Basildon, Essex, had asked a college friend, Louise Yexley, 18, also of Basildon, if she could help. Miss Yexley had then asked her boyfriend, Mr Smith, who went to a nightclub in Essex with Mr Packman in the hope of finding the drug. He told the jury Mr Packman bought the drug from an unknown dealer at the nightclub, Raquel's, the night before the party was due to take place. Miss Cargill said she and Leah each paid Mr Smith £22.50 for a total of four tablets. She and Leah took them around 8pm at the party on 11 November.

Miss Cargill said that in the past she and Leah had taken tablets with a dove motif on them but the ones Mr Smith brought had an apple motif. Because of that, Miss Cargill said, she advised Leah only to take half a tablet. Leah ignored that advice and Miss Cargill also herself swallowed a whole tablet. Miss Cargill said it did not affect her any differently to previous tablets. Leah was also smoking cannabis at the party, she said.

Miss Cargill said she and Leah started to experiment with drugs in 1995. They began with "things like cannabis", then took whizz, better known as amphetamine. They also tried LSD and on four previous occasions took ecstasy.

The court heard earlier how Leah's father Paul, a former policeman, and stepmother, Janet, a nurse, spent most of the evening in their kitchen while the party was going on.

Late on they had gone to the bedroom to find Leah obviously ill. Before lapsing into a coma, she told them that she had taken an ecstasy tablet which had been supplied to her by Mr Smith.

Miss Cargill told the jury she and Leah had visited Raquel's in the past but stopped after a row with a barmaid. She said she and Leah had previously bought drugs in the club and outside the club. The court heard that Leah, Miss Cargill, Mr Smith and Mr Packman had all attended the same school – St Nicholas in Laindon.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow.

Leah: Warned by friend

Ritz tourists become the new poor

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The affluent tourists who pay £190 a night for a single room at the Ritz are classified as the fourth most deprived group of residents in England, it emerged last night.

Labour revealed that the Government is paying £24m a year in deprivation allowances to Westminster, which is home to both Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament.

And the money is not just paid on behalf of such well-heeled sight-seers. It also covers commuters who work in the area but who live elsewhere, including MPs and members of the House of Lords.

The extra grants are meant in part to cover the possibility that these needy groups of people might need to claim housing benefit. It also pays for their use of parks and leisure facilities and for the demands they make on the street-cleaning and refuse-collection services.

Ministers decided last month to continue the practice despite considering a plan which would have given councils a flat-rate sum to help them provide services to commuters and tourists.

Opposition spokesmen have long complained that while Tory Westminster is classified as the fourth most deprived borough in Britain for grant purposes, Labour Barnsley is still 326th after 18 pit closures. The revelation that these extra grants are paid on behalf of about 800,000 visitors as well as 190,000 residents will cause further outrage.

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, called the revelation a "fiddle". Because 12 per cent of Westminster residents lived in overcrowded accommodation, 12 per cent of Ritz visitors earned overcrowding allowances for the borough, he said. "The government says Westminster is the fourth most deprived place, whereas Barnsley is 326th. But there's no Belgravia in Barnsley.

"And when these self-same visitors visit Brighton, the government assumes they are the 32nd most deprived people. When they go to Norwich, it assumes they are the 62nd most deprived. It's the same story all over the country."

Councillor Nick Markham, deputy leader of Westminster Council, said the attack was simply an attempt by Labour to smear the borough because it was efficient and its council taxes, which stood at £295 per head, were less than half the national average of £600.

"I could get into a 'lies, damn lies and statistics' debate and say that for every rich tourist there is a poor asylum-seeker. We have far more of those than we have visitors to the Ritz. "This is just another one of their attempts to find a reason why we are more efficient."

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politics

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

SCORING THE EXCHANGES

John Major 5/10 The two leaders agreed on almost everything. Blair's questions seemed designed to impale Major on his weekend interview. The Prime Minister could hardly repudiate it.

Tony Blair 4/10 Blair observed, in a roundabout way, that the Conservative front bench had more in common with Labour on Europe than they had with the Eurosceptics. It should have been a draw, but he loses a point for his predictable "if they can't be trusted to run themselves how can they be trusted to run this country?".

THEMES OF THE DAY

- Conservative minority government (Archie Kirkwood L Dem, Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Dr Lynne Jones Lab, Birmingham Selly Oak)
- Violence on TV (Michael Alison, C, Selby)
- Grammar schools (Teddy Taylor, C, Southend E)
- Recent MORI poll on Europe (Teresa Gorman, C, Billericay)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair began by asking whether Major agreed with Sir Leon Brittan that Conservative divisions were weakening Britain's position in Europe. Major agreed that when the Commons was divided on any issue, any negotiating position was weakened. He added that Socialist governments in Europe were waiting to take advantage of a Labour government after the election. Major appeared to be giving credence to the idea of a Labour victory.

GOOD DAY... ...BAD DAY

Sir Teddy Taylor - On a day when the Euroscepticism was to the fore again, he staggered everyone by asking a question about something completely different - grammar schools.

Archie Kirkwood - Faced with the delightful potential of first question on next week's minority government, Mr Kirkwood became too excited and asked a halting and ponderous 90-worder.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

What looked like a Speaker's jest - no sooner had Major declared "the splits on that side of the House are seismic" and sat down, Betty Boothroyd called out "Mrs Gorman". The Member for Billericay stood up to personify the Tory rift.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

On Budget changes to war pension administration: "Will the Prime Minister confirm that civil servants estimate that over and above any administrative changes, 16,000 war pensioners will lose out as a result of those changes?" Mr Major was not specific, but replied with a blanket denial that there would be any losers.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Nigel Evans (C, Ribble Valley) made the day's obligatory 'my constituency is lovely, Labour wants to ruin it' statement. "My Rt Hon friend will know, because he has visited the Ribble Valley, that it is a beautiful part of England . . ." he began. The question did not improve in the asking.

Compiled by Ben Summers

Tax burden higher than in 1970s

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

The tax burden is not only higher than it was when Labour left office in 1979, but also exceeds the figure for 1974, when Harold Wilson led a minority Labour government, according to a Treasury brief on the Budget.

A remarkably partisan document, the brief says: "UK burden of tax and public spending [is] lower than almost any other EU country, including Germany France and Italy."

But a table then shows that on the basis of provisional OECD data for 1995, while the domestic tax burden – at 35.2 per cent of national income – is indeed lower than that of Germany (39.1 per cent), France (44.5 per cent), and Italy (41.8 per cent), it is still higher than it was 20 years ago.

According to the OECD, the UK tax burden was 34.9 per cent in 1974, compared with 32.6 per cent in 1979, 34.1 per cent in 1994, and 35.2 per cent last year.

The Treasury's own figures show the tax burden rising inexorably between 1996-97 and 2001-02.

The Budget brief has previously been classed as a confidential document, but has been "unclassified" and made available to *The Independent* following a formal request for disclosure under the terms of the Government's code of open government – and a successful appeal. It is also to be made available on the Internet.

But the document that has been released this year is notable for the omission of some of the more controversial data that could be used as ammunition against the Government. One source said it had been "filleted". The brief used to include, for example, calculations on the tax burden for the average family – including indirect taxes. But this year's brief is restricted to "tax as a percentage of earnings for a family on average earnings... Income tax and National Insurance contributions."

The Treasury is currently sitting on a parliamentary question about the overall tax burden, including indirect taxes, put by Opposition Treasury spokesman Alistair Darling before the Budget.

Summing up the Government tax record, the brief said: "Highest marginal rate is now 40 per cent compared with 98 per cent before 1978-79. Since 1978-79 marginal tax rates on earnings have fallen but marginal tax rates on spending have risen.

"Real take-home pay for a family on average earnings should be £370 higher next year than this, after tax, inflation and earnings growth; over £1,100 higher than in 1991-92. This growth in living standards has been widely spread."

Detailed tables show that since 1978-79, when Labour was last in office, there has been a "swing" of 5 percentage points from direct tax on incomes to indirect tax on spending.

The Treasury brief also contains a table from a Social Security analysis, "Households Below Average Income", showing that while overall average disposable income has increased by 40 per cent in real terms, after housing costs, between 1979 and 1993-94, it has fallen by 13 per cent for the bottom 10 per cent, according to "uncertain" Family Expenditure Survey figures.

MPs protest at tortoises' chilly deaths

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

An alliance of 33 tortoise-loving MPs have protested to the Swedish authorities after they froze 1,000 illegally imported specimens to death. The animals were destroyed despite offers from both the British-based Tortoise Trust and the SAS airline to cover the cost of returning them to Tadjikistan.

The trust has now called for a boycott of Swedish goods until Oslo promises to deal more humanely with future cases.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North East, has put down a Commons motion on the subject which has been signed by 32 other parliamentary tortoise fanciers.

A European Union import ban on Mediterranean tortoises has raised retail prices to between £90 and £130. As a result, smuggling is common and there have been a number of cases of "tortoise rustling".

Although the Swedish consignment was of Russian Horsfield's tortoises, which can be imported, it was impounded at Arlanda airport in Stockholm because its importer did not have the correct paperwork.

The animals were kept in the airport for a week, during which time the Tortoise Trust, alerted through a tortoise-lovers' Internet site, tried to persuade the authorities to repatriate them. But at the end of October they were put into a refrigerated container which killed them within a few hours. Jill Martin, who runs the Tortoise Trust sanctuary in Wales, said: "We got the strong impression that there wasn't really any intention of doing anything other than destroying them."

The Swedish Chargé d'Affaires in London, Marten Grunditz, said there was no rescue centre in Sweden willing to take the animals, and they were not fit for transportation.

Love and affection: Tony Banks with a friend in London Zoo's reptile house yesterday. The MP has put down a Commons motion, signed by 32 others, protesting at the destruction of 1,000 tortoises by the Swedish authorities Photograph: David Rose

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Why Labour will resist a top rate of tax: Donald Macintyre, page 15

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Quangos fall to the cull but their costs just rise and rise

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

The cull of the quango, a long standing feature of government policy, has been successful in reducing the number of public bodies but has failed to limit their expenditure, with Government spending on them increasing sixfold since 1979.

Figures issued yesterday by the Cabinet Office show that there were 1,194 "non-departmental bodies" (NDPBs) on 1 April, 33 fewer than a year previously. In fact, 96 quangos were abolished, while 63 were created.

So farewell the Physical Activity Task Force, the Nutrition Task Force, the Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committee, Going for Green and the National Breastfeeding Working Group. Several new town development corporations, the seven river purification boards and the London Residuary Body, which dealt with the remains of both the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority have also been axed.

Despite the Government's reluctance to create any new bodies, enter the Local Government Residuary Body, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Protection Against Unlawful Industrial Action, the Scottish Water and Sewerage Customers' Council, Volunteering Partnership and the Pensions Ombudsman.

All bodies are subject to a review of their relevance every five years but this does not prevent the continued survival of bizarre sounding bodies, ranging from the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, which spent £1.44m last year, the Wine Standards Board of the Vintners' Company, which spent £456,000, and the Secretary of State for Scotland's (Electricity) Fisheries Committee which has six members and spends £3,000 per year.

The trend has been that advisory bodies, which spend little, have been axed but executive bodies, which have staff and spending powers, have increased their expenditure. Therefore, while the number of NDPBs has fallen from 2,197 in 1979 to 1,194 this year, spending on them has increased from £3bn to £18bn over that period.

The definition of what bodies are included in the report is controversial. While quangos have proliferated in education and health, such as hospital trusts and grant-maintained schools, the Government does not include the 429 hospital trusts or the 100 health authorities because these are local bodies with no national interest.

One area where the Government's policy appears to have been partly successful is in the increase in appointments of ethnic minorities and women to quango boards, promised by John Major in 1991. Of more than 40,000 board members, 31 per cent are women and 3.3 per cent from ethnic minorities, compared with 23 per cent and 2 per cent five years ago. The department with the best record on gender is the Home Office, with women comprising 41 per cent of its 1,300 appointments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries manages just 9 per cent of women from its 1,400 appointments.

The document shows that many chief executives of these bodies earn more than £100,000 a year. Andrew Foster, the controller of the Audit Commission, which oversees the spending of local councils and the health service in England and Wales, is paid £140,841 a year while the chief executive of English Partnerships earns £126,000. Other chief executives on six figure salaries include those heading the London Docklands Development Corporation (£112,901) and the Victoria and Albert Museum (£108,080).

■ *Public Bodies 1996; Stationery Office, £14 50*

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news

Lottery handout fails to make up charity shortfall

Liz Hunt
Health Editor

Medical research charities yesterday received £6.7m of National Lottery money – about two-thirds of the average jackpot – in the first round of payouts to the sector which claims it has been hardest hit by the weekly draw.

The Association of Medical Research Charities acknowledged the grants as a "good start" but said the sum involved was disappointing. The largest grant announced yesterday is less than one thousandth of the biggest single sum of lottery money awarded so far, £55m to the Royal Opera House.

The overall income of more than 90 charities represented by the association fell by £21m (about 6 per cent) in 1995-1996, the first decrease in 12 years. The advent of the National Lottery is said to be a significant factor, particularly for the smaller organisations which rely on "small change" donations.

A spokeswoman for the association said yesterday that restrictions imposed on applicants for lottery funding had severely affected the outcome. Applications were limited to a single project rather than a programme of research. This resulted in the national medical research charities such as the Cancer Research Campaign and the British Diabetic Association having to compete with local organisations for funding. "For the bigger medical charities this is like choosing between Rwanda and Bosnia – do they seek funding for breast cancer or bowel cancer?" she said.

Medical charities, especially the larger ones providing a wide range of services in addition to their research role which had previously been the recipients of lottery money, were excluded from this round of applications, the spokeswoman added. "There is a case for the national charities being considered separately in the future," she said.

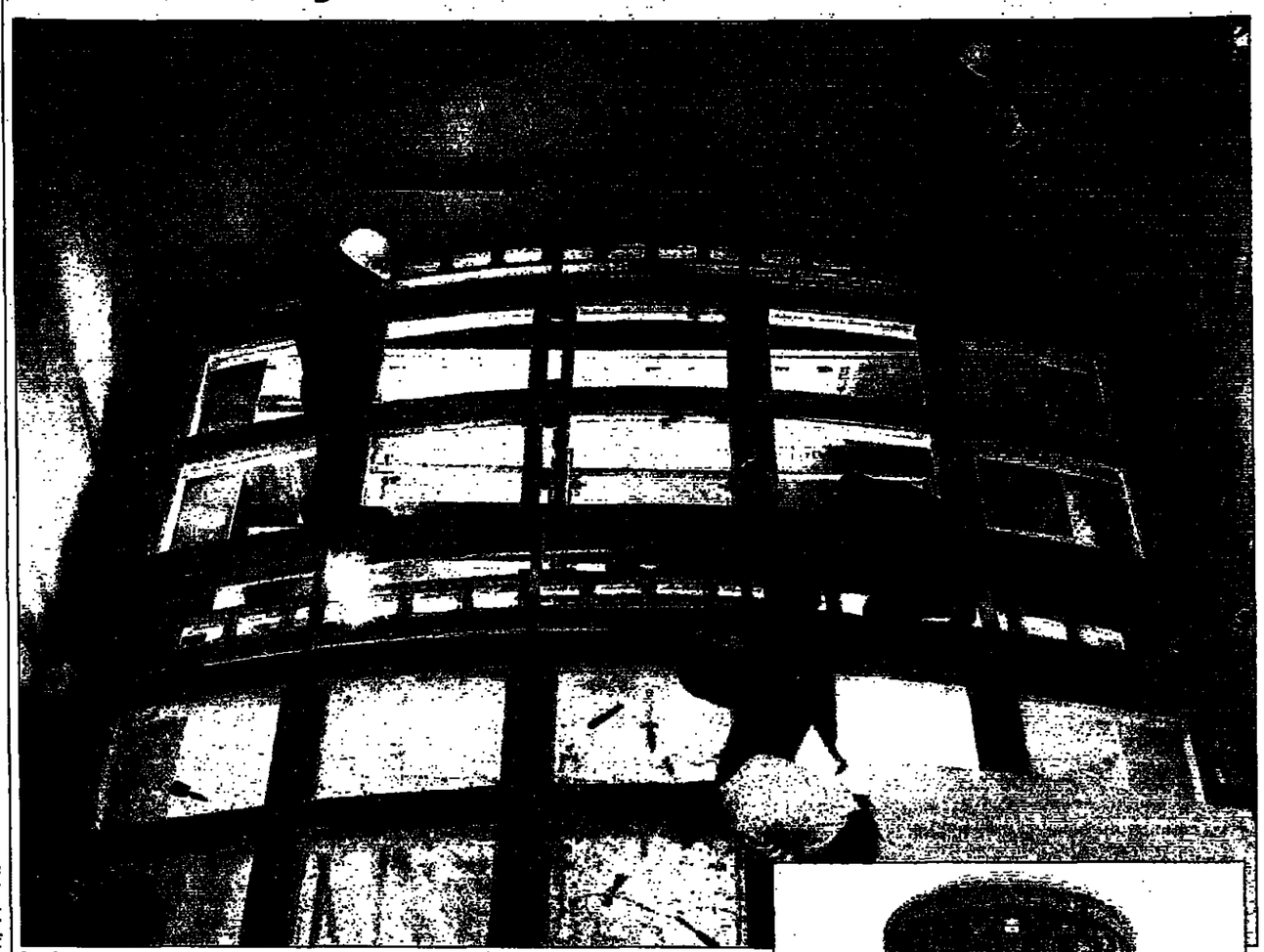
> Restrictions on applicants severely affected the outcome

Yesterday's awards by the National Lottery Charities Board will fund research into asthma, cancer, liver disease, lung disease, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, stroke and head injury, and childhood meningitis. A total of 43 grants worth £6.7m are for medical research, and 13 grants worth £1.9m are for social research.

The largest grant of £542,772 went to the Mental Health Foundation for research into the documentation and dissemination of information for mental health service users on alternative ways to live with the illness. The smallest sum of £26,891 went to the Rehabilitation and Medical Research Trust to investigate the development of pressure sores in people who use wheelchairs. Other organisations to benefit include the National Heart Research Fund, Research into Ageing, British Lung Foundation, and Tenovus, a breast cancer organisation.

One of the losers among the unsuccessful organisations applying for funding was the Zito Trust. Set up by Jayne Zito in 1992, after schizophrenic Christopher Clunis stabbed her husband Jonathan to death, it had applied for £85,000 over two years, and the rejection of cash puts the future of the trust in jeopardy.

Earl's folly shows off its finest features



In the round: The team working on the glass canopy under the dome at Ickworth House in Suffolk (inset) as the five-year restoration plan begins Photographs: John Voos

The National Trust is giving 200-year-old Ickworth House a facelift, reports **Stephen Goodwin**

The sound of breaking glass above a 70ft-high scaffold signalled the start this week of major renovation work at one of England's more eccentric country houses.

Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, is a vast rotunda, with wings to either side, conceived by the fourth Earl of Bristol 200 years ago. The earl, who was also bishop of the wealthy see of Derry, wanted somewhere fitting to display the works of Renaissance art he was gathering on European tours.

Inspired by the round house built by John Plaw on Belle Isle in Lake Windermere, Cumbria, he began work on the fabulous building – really an oval – in 1795. But it was still a shell when he died in Italy in 1803 and his collections were captured in Rome during the Napoleonic wars.

The glass canopy or "laylight" being removed this week screened off the never-finished upper floor from the magnificent entrance hall and staircase below. It had become unsafe and is being replaced by opaque safety glass in a £63,000 restoration programme this winter by the National Trust.

Ickworth remained the home of the rich Hervey family, which amassed further collections. There are fine English portraits, Old Masters, silver, porcelain and furniture and is one of NT's premier properties, with 75,000 visitors a year.

But Ickworth has been as much a drain on the charity's funds as it was on the Hervey's – heating alone costs £8,000 a year. The property passed to the trust in 1956 in lieu of death duties. The fourth marquess feared, with justification, that his successors would sell the collections. Last summer, the seventh marquess, John Hervey, raised more than £1m in an auction of the contents of his apartment in the east wing.

Replacing the laylight is part of a five-year restoration plan. There are 270 panes of glass in the canopy, set in ornate plasterwork. A clear panel will enable visitors to look up into the dome. The entrance hall and staircase will also be repainted for the first time since 1968. Paint scrapes have revealed the colours commissioned in 1827 by the earl-bishop's son, the first marquess. Instead of nondescript Sixties emulsion, the hall will be a warm stone colour and there will be painted marble detail on the columns in time for the spring reopening.

■ A High Court judge yesterday rejected an attempt to prevent "executive-style" homes being built by the Prince of Wales's favourite property developer at Downe Hall, near Bridport, Dorset. CG Fry and Son want to convert the Grade 2-listed hall into five flats and build eight houses with garages in the 18th-century landscaped grounds. Mr Justice Latham described the hall as "at one time a fine house" which had fallen into disrepair with unkempt gardens.

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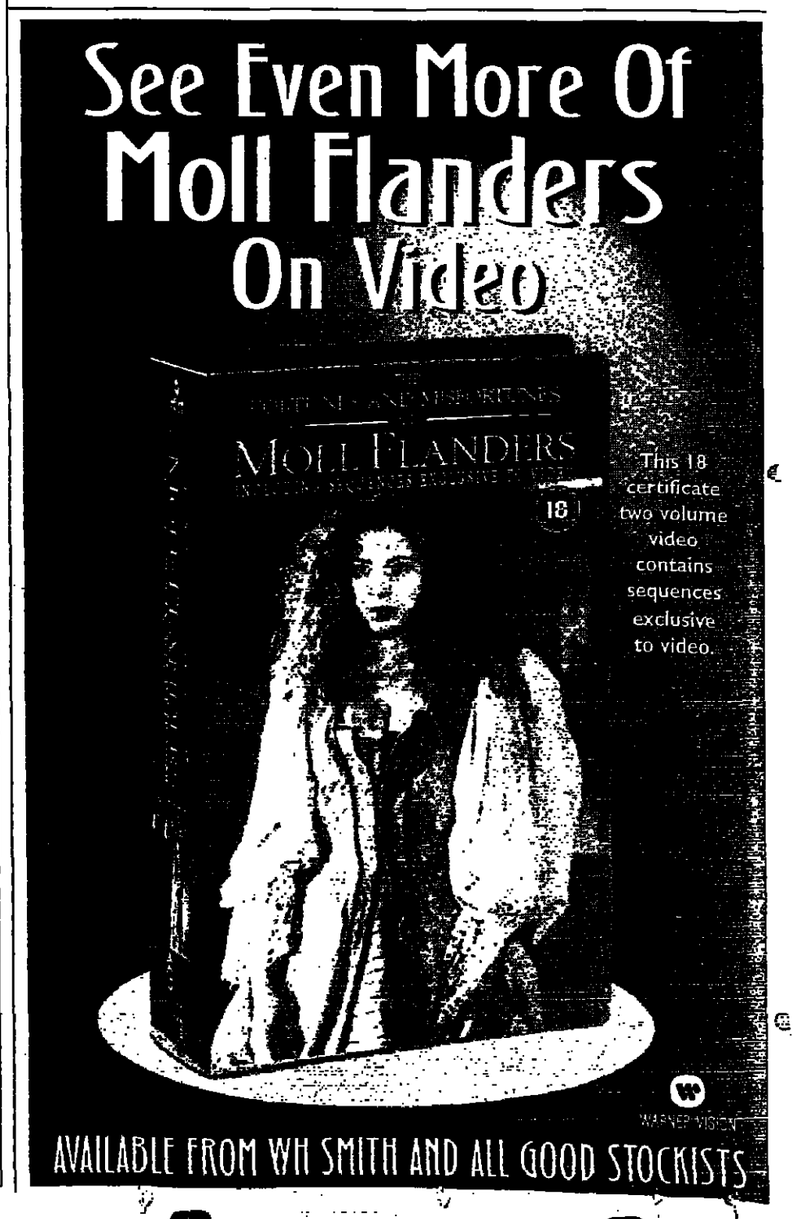

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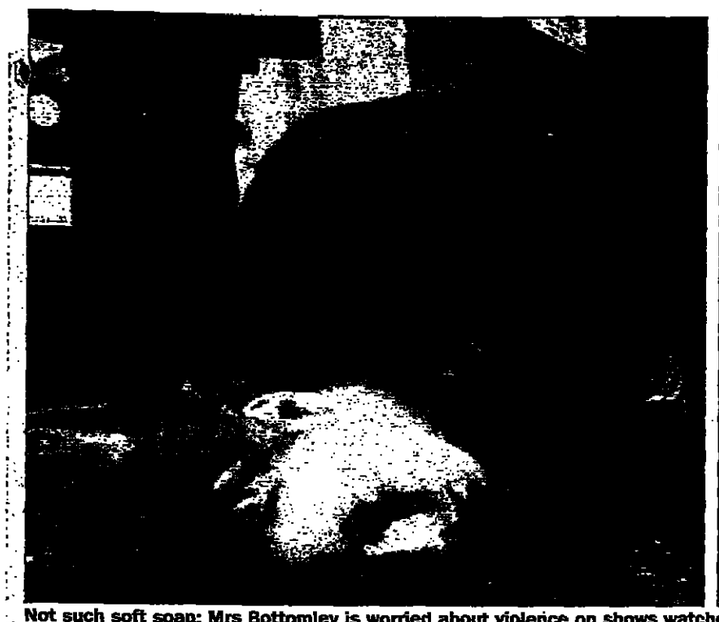
Heritage Secretary expresses concern to network chiefs, but a bigger threat hangs over the airwaves



Not such soft soap: Mrs Bottomley is worried about violence on shows watched by young children. Recent instances have included (left to right) a shooting in *EastEnders* and disturbing scenes in *Cracker* and *Brookside*

Bottomley wields stick on TV violence

Marianne Macdonald
Media Correspondent

Virginia Bottomley yesterday stepped up her crusade against violence on television, but failed to win significant concessions from regulators.

The Secretary of State for National Heritage announced new measures following a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, Sir George Russell, chairman of the Independent Television Commission (ITC), and Lady Howe, chairwoman of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

The summit followed Mrs Bottomley's demand last month that all three produced reports, suggesting how to reduce television violence.

Yesterday the three agreed a four-point plan, but it appeared to promise little advance on existing regulation. They pledged to "continue to ensure that programme makers maintain proper standards" and "firmly deal" with transgressions; educate viewers about programme codes and the watershed; revise their codes of practice – apart from the BBC, which has just done so – and explore how to improve the signalling of violent programmes on screen, on teletext and in listings.

Mrs Bottomley also published the results of a consultation exercise earlier this year into the V-chip, the device which can be installed inside television sets to blank out violent or sexual programmes automatically. But her department's paper held out little immediate hope forthe V-chip in Britain. It said that there was a long way to go before it could be a useful tool, even if it proved feasible in the first place.

It warned: "There was ... a degree of scepticism that the introduction of the V-chip was likely, at least in isolation, to be successful in addressing these concerns [about the levels of violence and its effects]."

Mrs Bottomley's concern follows a trend for crime shows and dramas to be less overtly violent but still, she thinks, unhealthy. She also believes that there is too much emphasis on crime on television generally.

A mother-of-three herself, Mrs Bottomley wants more protection for children and information for parents, and argues that repeatedly seeing violence must influence the ways people behave.

After yesterday's meeting she said: "Violence on television is a cause for concern for many viewers. I share that concern. Statistics suggest that the amount of violence on our screens is decreasing and I welcome that.

"But even so, there are times when violence seems too prominent in the schedules, and this can be disturbing for many viewers, young and old."

Recently the BBC1 soap opera *EastEnders* has been gripped by violence with the gangland shooting of Ian Beale, while Carlton's *London Bridge* got a formal warning from the ITC over a rape scene.

Other programmes which have fallen foul of the increasingly restrictive climate include *The Bill* (Carlton), *Brookside* (Channel 4), and even the normally anodyne Australian soap *Neighbours* (BBC1).

Last night, Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, accused Mrs Bottomley of trying to use television violence to shore up her political credibility.

He warned: "Virginia Bottomley's crusade on television violence is a fraud. She has had the chance to act and has consistently failed to do so."

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...as BBC tries to fend off Murdoch's digital assault

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

The BBC is mounting a last-ditch effort to prevent the creation of what it fears will be a private monopoly in digital television controlled by the media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

In response to today's deadline for consultation on the Department of Trade and Industry's guidelines on digital television, the BBC will again call for mandatory licensing of the technology used to scramble and decode signals.

The war waged against television violence by Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, is sure to be seen as wholly marginal when set against the crucial question of who will control access to the 200-channel universe promised by the digital revolution.

Mr Murdoch, who controls 40 per cent of the satellite broadcaster BSkyB, is the owner of the United Kingdom's only functioning "conditional access" technology used to drive set-top boxes. The BBC fears that he will dominate access to the digital pay-television market, just as he has controlled the gateway to analogue pay-television.

The public-service broadcaster is expected to gain limited support from the Labour Party, which is likely to call for a debate on the guidelines when they are published next week.

"Barring a change of heart from the Government ... we will be calling for a debate on the matter," Geoff Hoon, Labour's spokes-man on trade and industry, said yesterday. "We think these guidelines make more sense for a mature market, rather than for a new market [such as digital television]."

The BBC is expected to argue that the DTI's guidelines, which provide for the regulation of conditional access through Oftel, the telecommunications regulator, fall well short of what is necessary to pre-empt a monopoly. The BBC, which plans to launch as many as eight pay channels, wants to be able to operate its own subscription management system, without going through the digital gateway controlled by Mr Murdoch. It is not convinced that the current guidelines will ensure access. The Government believes Oftel can provide a level playing field for all broadcasters.

ITV companies, represented by the ITV Association, are expected to be less critical of the guidelines. All the same, the ITVA will today call on the DTI to ensure that broadcasters are able "to distribute their own smart cards, and manage and authorise subscribers".

According to a source at ITV, "these guidelines are better than nothing". He added that ITV companies expected competing conditional access systems to develop. However, if BSkyB launches its digital satellite service next year, ITV fears Mr Murdoch could seize "first-mover" advantage. It will argue that "if there is going to be a single proprietary conditional access system in operation, it is vital that broadcasters have a choice of suppliers at the subscriber-management level".

Channel 5 said it was relaxed about the regulations. A senior source said: "We believe the BBC is making unrealistic demands, and these have been sensibly ignored by the DTI."

Suggestions that BSkyB will delay the launch of its digital service have been discounted by insiders. However, it is understood that the award of contracts to make the set-top boxes will not be made until the regulations have been approved.

Business comment, page 17

Police failed to find dead driver

Michael Streeter

A police force which "lost" a woman's body after a road crash yesterday admitted that one of its officers had failed to find the scene of another fatal accident.

The policeman, hampered by thick fog, unable to locate the spot where passing security officers from the Ministry of Defence had spotted a car in a field north of Bedford.

It was only an hour later, after further information came in, that the vehicle was found with the body of 17-year-old Richard Horricks nearby. The car had been moved from its original site which suggests that the A-level student had been alive at the time of the first report.

Yesterday, Richard's family was said to be "understanding" over the delay, after it emerged that he would probably have died from serious neck injuries even if found immediately.

However, for Bedfordshire Police it brought back uncomfortable memories of 18 months ago when two officers found an overturned car in a field and left a "police aware" sticker on it. The next day the body of Sally London, 40, was found by a passer-by, who saw an arm hanging out of the wreckage. The two officers were dismissed but reinstated six weeks ago on appeal.

Yesterday, a police spokesman denied any similarity and said that there would be an internal management inquiry into the incident last Friday but no disciplinary hearing.

The original call reported the car abandoned in a field on the Thurleigh Road, near Sharnbrook, north of Bedford. But the responding police officer was not local and in the fog instead searched the Thurleigh Road at Milton Nerest, two miles away. Unable to find it, and believing it was simply abandoned, he decided it could be looked for in the morning.

Later, when a phone call from the public alerted police again, they contacted the MoD. "When the security officers returned to the scene, they found the car had moved 200 yards in the field," the spokesman said. "The driver had collapsed nearby and was later pronounced dead."

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news

Organic shoppers bottle out of going green all over

Looking ahead: An environmentally conscious recycler drops a bottle into an glass bank in east London yesterday

Photograph: John Voos

Glenda Cooper

Green shopping is "alive and kicking" according to two polls released today, with consumers worried about the effect their purchases have on the environment. But shoppers are still reluctant to give up their tumble driers, televisions, cars and other creature comforts to ensure a cleaner planet.

An exclusive MORI poll for *The Independent* found that more than one in three people think that the planet will not be able to sustain the human race beyond the year 2100 if goods are manufactured and consumed at current rates.

In the poll of more than 2,000 people, commissioned by the Ark Environmental Foundation, just under half of consumers said they want goods to be redesigned in an environmentally responsible way. Only one in eight people felt that they could carry on as they are.

Those aged 35-44 are most inclined to think the planet will not be able to sustain the human race if goods are manufactured and consumed at current rates, with more than four in ten holding this view.

Just under half of consumers, particularly those aged 15-34, want goods to be defined in an environmentally conscious way.

The results mirror a new report from the National Consumer Council (NCC) which found that one in three consumers is committed to green shopping and one in five regularly buys green. The report identifies five type of "green" shoppers: affluent greens, young greens, recyclers, careful spenders and sceptics.

Affluent greens and young greens (who together make up 36 per cent of the population) are committed to green consumerism, buying unleaded petrol, using recycled products, and more likely to buy organic food.

Recyclers and careful spenders (38 per cent) also act in an environmentally friendly way, although they do not usually buy green. Only the sceptics (26 per cent) do not buy products described as environmentally friendly because they are not convinced that "green" products are better for the environment.

Launching the report, the NCC chairman David Hatch said: "Retailers tell us green products are not selling. They say that for many shoppers 'green' ... has come to sound cranky. However, our survey shows that the green consumer is alive and kicking [but] they can find neither the products nor the accurate information they need."

A MORI poll for Ark earlier this year found that while nine out of ten respondents are very or fairly concerned about the environment, when asked what they would be prepared to give up, at least 90 per cent indicated that they were not prepared to go without basic items like a television or central heating. Nearly a quarter said they would not be prepared to cut down on the use of anything.

Reg Boorer, executive director of Ark, said: "As it appears that the majority of us have no intention of curbing our consumer instincts ... it places the onus firmly on designers, manufacturers and service-providers to redesign all our goods and services in a fundamentally more sustainable manner."

□ MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 2,036 adults aged 15-plus in Great Britain from 31 October to 5 November 1996. All interviews were conducted in-home, face-to-face. Data has been weighted to the known profile of the British population. The Ark Environmental Foundation can be contacted at Suite 640-643 Linen Hall 162-168 Regent St, London W1R 5TB. Tel: 0171-439 4567.

Leading article, page 13

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CHG1

Hogg in new attempt to lift beef ban

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, is expected to seek Cabinet approval tomorrow for a bid to lift the European ban on British beef exports a move which could help to prop up John Major's Government until a general election next May.

The first step in lifting the ban on beef exports was taken yesterday by Mr Hogg with the announcement of a massive computerised tracing system for 12 million cattle in England, Wales and Scotland.

The traceability scheme, which will enable farmers to trace cattle from birth to death on a central computer system, is a key requirement of Franz Fischler, the European agriculture commissioner, for agreeing to a partial cull of selected British herds.

Mr Hogg is hoping to go to the next meeting of European agriculture ministers on Monday to appeal for the selective cull to be approved. That could hold out the prospect of the lifting the export ban on beef early in the New Year for cattle from Northern Ireland, where a traceability scheme is already in operation. Farmers with certified BSE-free herds in Scotland could follow later next year.

The Ministry of Agriculture is on the alert for a statement, possibly tomorrow, if Mr Hogg secures the backing of the full Cabinet for the scheme.

Mr Hogg has been fighting hard within Whitehall to overcome resistance to the selective cull, proposed at the Florence summit. The Government then did a U-turn, arguing that the additional cull was not scientifically based. But the Government is now poised to come full-circle by going ahead with the plan which could lead to an extra 100,000 cattle being slaughtered.

Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has been holding out for a scheme which would enable Scottish farmers to cash in on the lifting of the ban.

There would be a big bonus for the Government, because the lifting of the ban would help to secure the support of the Ulster Unionists, on whose votes Mr Major will have to depend to avoid being forced to go to the country in an early general election. The Ulster Unionists have been pressing Mr Major hard to allow a partial cull to go ahead. Northern Ireland would be the first to qualify because it already has a sophisticated tracing system in place to combat cross-border fraud.

The scheme announced yesterday for the mainland will require the agreement of the British farming industry, who are being asked to foot the bill for the running costs of £25m a year. Ministers believe they may object to the cost, but will regard it as worth paying to get the ban lifted.

Announcing the plan, Mr Hogg said in a Commons written answer: "I recognise that this project is of great significance to the livestock industry. In order for the computerised system to be effective, it will be essential to have the industry's support."

DAILY POEM

The Social Worker

By Ruth Silcock

The news for you, the young man said.
Is that you have to find
A nursing home within a week.
I hope that's not unkind.
Our hospital has no more beds,
There's no more room: and so
Your mother with her mended hip,
Unmended mind, must go.

I have a list that you can take
With numbers you may ring
And what the cost will be. I think
That covers everything
It's up to you. I've work to do.
No time to lose. And so
Remember, you have just one week.
Your mother has to go.

Ruth Silcock was born in 1926 and read English at Girton College, Cambridge. Much of her working life was spent as a social worker, and many of her poems focus on the neglected, the marginalised and the unnoticed. This poem is the first of a sequence, "46 Nursing Homes", which appears in her new collection published by Anvil, *A Wonderful View of the Sea*.

هكذا من الأصل

Hong Kong 'elects' its post-colonial satrap, a shipping mogul once bailed out by Peking

Democrats need not apply is the message in the run-up to July's handover, writes **Stephen Vines**

Hong Kong – Britain formally hands over power in Hong Kong to China on 1 July but today the real shift in power will be confirmed by selection of the first post-colonial head of government.

More than ever before, the Governor, Chris Patten, will be marginalised after Tung Chee-hwa, 59, a shipping tycoon, is anointed as Chief Executive.

More than ever before, the Governor will be marginalised

The selection has been something of a farce, because China has dressed it up as an election, although Mr Tung was chosen in Peking a year ago.

Nevertheless, the 400 members of a body called the Selection Committee will cast a majority of votes for Mr Tung today.

The two other "candidates", Sir Ti-Liang Yang, the former chief justice, and the businessman Peter Woo, will then gracefully withdraw, declaring it has been a fair race.

However, the process has been a success for Peking, anxious to persuade Hong Kong's people that they are being given their first opportunity to choose their head of government.

But, despite efforts by the colony's increasingly compliant media to portray the election campaign as a real race, there is evidence that the public have not been fooled: an opinion poll indicated that 56 per cent of respondents believed the winning candidate had been chosen in advance by China.

The farce will continue, because within days of the Chief Executive's selection, the same 400 hand-picked members of the committee making that selection will reconvene to "elect" the 60 members of a provisional legislature who will replace the Legislative Council, elected last year by the closest thing to universal suffrage Hong Kong has ever experienced.

China also intends to scrap all the other elected local-government bodies.

In so doing it will begin the new era of Chinese rule with a clean slate, cleared of all the pro-democracy politicians who have consistently gained a lot of votes when genuine elections were held.

Changing the guard: Tung Chee-hwa (left), who is to succeed Chris Patten as chief executive of the territory

Although China may not have convinced the public it is holding a genuine election, it has succeeded in lowering expectations of finding an independent-minded candidate to hold the top office. When the process of selecting the Chief Executive started, the public made clear its desire for the top post to be filled by either Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor, or Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party. Mr Tung scarcely registered in the public mind.

Peking may be prepared to let Mrs Chan keep her present job but she is regarded as being too closely connected with the British to win the top post. As for Mr Lee, China sees him as a subversive and beyond the pale. Nevertheless, his colleague Szeto Wah has been put forward as the Democratic Party's candidate for the post in a propaganda exercise which has gathered 100,000 signatures.

Mr Tung has risen in opinion-poll ratings because Hong Kong people like to back a winner and because he has displayed talent as a candidate. Able to look both cheerful and thoughtful while out and about on the campaign trail, he is taking a crash-course in learning how ordinary people live.

Unlike many Hong Kong tycoons, his story is not one of rags to riches but a background of considerable wealth originating in Shanghai. However, he was confronted with financial ruin in 1985, when the family's Orient Overseas shipping line incurred debts of $2.68bn. China stepped in to help Mr Tung in a complex corporate rescue plan which, say his critics, left him for ever in debt to the Chinese government.

China's leaders got to know Mr Tung and liked what they saw. He was well connected internationally, at ease in three Chinese languages and English, and has charisma and leadership qualities which have been demonstrated in the business world.

Like the leaders in Peking, he is conservative and not an instinctive democrat, in spite of a decade working in America and university studies in Liverpool. His experience of politics has been gained by serving on non-elected Chinese-government advisory bodies and in the Governor's Executive Council, or cabinet, which he joined at Mr Patten's invitation after he sought to include a pro-Peking representative.

The big question about Mr Tung is: will he do what Peking wants, or will he, as he claims, stand up for Hong Kong's interests?

Although frequently asked, the question is naive. China simply will not tolerate Hong Kong coming under the control of an independent-minded leader. At most, it will allow a small degree of autonomy and permit the head of the Hong Kong government to devise his own presentation of policies.

It is inconceivable that real power will be ceded to a new Hong Kong government. That is why there are reports of senior Communist Party cadres being moved to the border town of Shenzhen, and talk of restructuring the party apparatus in Hong Kong so that a system of control by political commissars can be put in place. The problem Mr Tung will face is that there are a number of competing Chinese power centres keen to make their mark in Hong Kong. He may well be caught in the middle of a nasty power struggle.

China simply will not tolerate an independent minded leader

An absent atheist's money goes missing

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

If every great religion has its mysteries, so too now does anti-religion, at least in the United States.

Fifteen months ago, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, head of American Atheists Inc and the country's most famous non-believer, vanished from her home in Austin Texas, along with her younger son and an adopted grand-daughter who lived with her. What happened is a riddle which baffles her followers, the media and the police to this day.

This week the tale grew curiouser still: According to a Texas newspaper, $625,000 disappeared from the accounts of American Atheists and its sister organisation United Secularists of America at almost the precise moment the three went missing. The paper further claimed that the money was "believed to be in the possession" of Jon Murray, the son who vanished with her.

Back in September 1995, everything still seemed relatively straightforward. Aged 77 and chronically ill with diabetes, Ms O'Hair suspected she was not much longer for this earth. She had vanished, it was generally assumed, in order to keep those hated Christians – "Christers" as she called them – and their prayers away from any funeral she might organise.

But as the months passed and no trace was found, other theories began to circulate. Maybe, some murmured, she had suffered the ultimate, never to be admitted humiliation of a deathbed conversion. No more implausibly, perhaps she had been abducted by her Godfearing foes, especially numerous in the Bible Belt where she lived.

After all had not Ms O'Hair, who led the challenge which resulted in the historic Supreme Court ruling of 1962 banning prayer in public in public schools, more recently taken aim at religious broadcasting? Nowhere is that institution more entrenched than in the American South. Not for nothing did she refer to herself as "the most hated woman in America".

But if her possible demise could be explained, the continuing disappearance of her son and granddaughter could not. Hence increasingly rumours of foul play, motivated by the millions of dollars reputedly controlled by Ms O'Hair and her associates through American Atheists, which claims 40,000 followers, and its affiliates. Now comes news of the missing $625,000, fuelling speculation – denied by most of those who knew them – that the three simply absconded. Mexico is one favoured destination. Tahiti and New Zealand are others.

Belatedly William Murray, O'Hair's estranged elder son and a Christian activist, has asked for a police investigation. In Texas of course, if there is no arrest warrant against a missing person, these things can take time: "It's not against the law for an adult to disappear," a police officer says, noting there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Mr Murray though begs to differ. The trio was not the kind which merges into the background, he argues: "They are unusual-looking, unusual-sounding people, they were all obese, they were all foul-mouthed. If they came into your place of business you wouldn't forget them." Something bad, he insists, must have happened.

Saddam taps back into the world oil markets

Patrick Cockburn

People danced in the streets of Baghdad yesterday as Iraq pumped its first oil for export since sanctions were imposed when it invaded Kuwait in 1990. The official Iraqi News Agency said: "President Saddam Hussein pressed the button in Kirkuk's Number One pumping station at 11.25 Baghdad time, declaring the return of Iraqi oil to the international market."

The announcement was premature, as a fault in the pumping-station in Kirkuk, in the heart of Iraq's northern oilfields, delayed for several hours the export of the first of 580, 000 barrels a day of crude oil, which will be pumped through Turkey to its oil port at Dortyol. Iraq has been able to start exporting limited quantities after six years because of the UN Security Council's "oil-for-food" plan, under which Baghdad will export $2bn of oil every six months. Under a UN-monitored scheme, the the money will be spent on food and medicine for Iraqis, compensation for victims of the invasion of Kuwait and UN operations in Iraq.

The US agreed last year to limited sales to relieve pressure on humanitarian grounds within the UN Security Council for the total lifting of sanctions. President Saddam initially considered the monitoring of his oil exports and the distribution of aid as an invasion of Iraqi sovereignty and delayed final agreement. It is likely, however, that the improved ration for 20 million Iraqis will strengthen his regime.

In giving the go-ahead for the plan, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, said: "This is a victory for the poorest of the poor of Iraq, for the women, the children, the sick and the disabled." Unicef believes 4,500 children under the age of five were dying each month from hunger and disease.

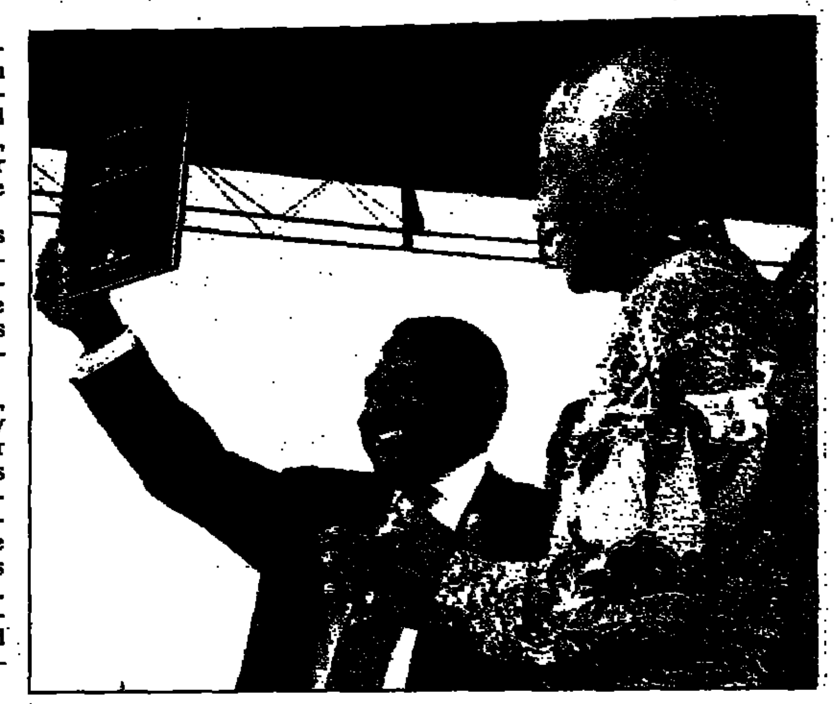
In theory, complete lifting of sanctions will only come when a UN special commission verifies Iraq has no more weapons of mass destruction, but the US is likely to oppose this, to prevent Iraq regaining its previous economic and political strength.

The oil price dipped slightly on news of the Iraqi exports but world demand is expected to be strong enough to support the 580,000 barrels a day it will ship. Before the invasion of Kuwait, Baghdad exported three million a day. The first crude pumped is to be bought by Turkey.

Some $1.32bn of each $2bn from sales will go for humanitarian supplies, including $260m for goods for Iraqi Kurdistan. It is unclear how this will be distributed, as Kurdistan is divided between Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which have just fought a civil war.

Roll out the barrels: Saddam Hussein restarting oil exports yesterday after a six-year break Photograph: AP

Once it witnessed apartheid tyranny. Yesterday it saw the spirit of peace



Hope from despair: The scene at the Sharpeville massacre in March 1960, in which 69 people were shot down by the South African police, and below Nelson Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa at yesterday's celebration to launch the country's new constitution Photographs: Reuter

Mary Braid
Sharpeville

Three decades ago they saw the police roll into Sharpeville and open fire on a peaceful demonstration, murdering 69 black men, women and children and wounding more than 100 others.

They survived a massacre which shocked the world and forced the African National Congress to abandon half a century of humble requests and polite persuasion in favour of the AK47. It was fitting then that the survivors shared the platform in Sharpeville yesterday with President Nelson Mandela when he signed South Africa's new constitution, the final chapter in the country's remarkable negotiated peace.

But the thousands who came to dance and sing in the blazing summer sun, under a canopy of umbrellas, were exorcising more than the massacre. They also put to rest the agreement which laid the foundations for it and countless other atrocities. For it was at neighbouring Vereeniging that the Boers, having lost their battle for independence, signed the 1902 peace agreement with the British which disenfranchised the majority black population.

"That treaty laid the foundations of the majority's suffering," said Valli Moosa, the Constitutional Affairs Minister. But he told the crowd that this was the moment that "South Africans for 300 years have lived and died for".

Future generations would cherish the day.

President Mandela linked the constitution directly to the sorrows and losses of the past. "Out of the many Sharpevilles which haunt our history was born the unshakable determination that respect for human life, liberty and well-being must be enshrined as rights beyond the power of any force to diminish," he said.

There was a moment's silence for those who died in South Africa's long revolution but from the moment jazz legend Hugh Masakela began a musical plea to the ancestors to celebrate, the sombre mood changed. "Man, this is one happy day," declared a township woman, sashaying near the front. "This is one happy day."

South Africa chose International Human Rights Day to pass into law one of the most liberal constitutions in the world. Approved by the Constitutional Court last week it was two years in the making.

Since the euphoria of the first democratic elections in 1994 the reality of everyday, down-and-dirty politics has kicked in. The ANC is struggling with internal divisions, born of personal ambitions and petty jealousies.

That was inevitable. But somehow Mr Mandela still floats above the grime. As he danced his inimitable shuffle, he still wove his magic yesterday, a symbol of personal sacrifice and what it can achieve. And the crowd loved him.

Some say the old man has lost it; that his judgement is suspect and he is given to the dictatorial rant. But while yesterday's airforce fly-past and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque were too early, Mr Mandela, 78, and a little stiffer these days, was on cue and in sparkling form.

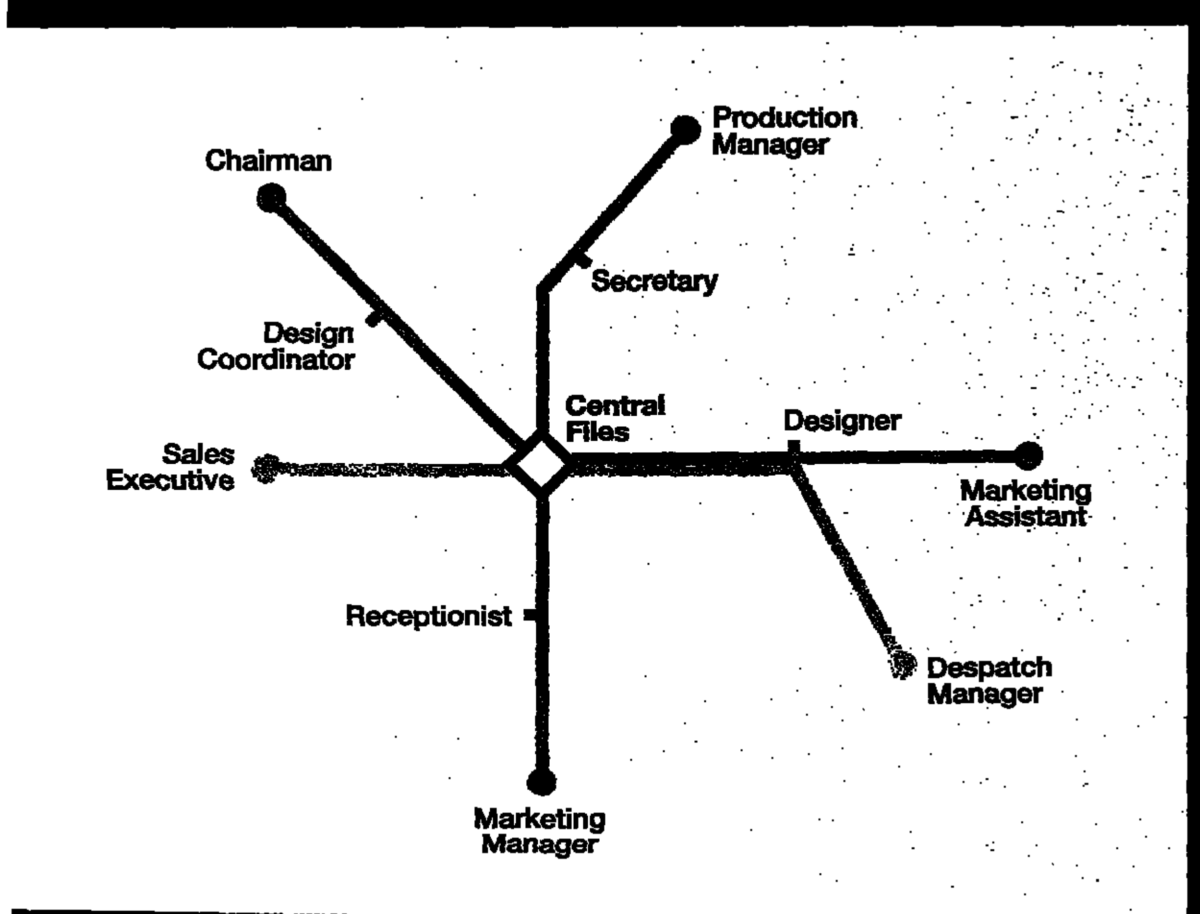
His speech was run-of-the-mill but he charmed his audience. "I need hardly tell you that this is a speech my bosses drew up for me," he said, before going off the cuff to relate a self-deprecatory story about the young and brash Comrade Mandela. Its message was simple; good men and women in every political party had to guard against those who, like the young Mandela, lacked vision and wisdom. He made a general plea for national unity.

For disunity he had only to look to his own top brass. On his right sat Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Thabo Mbeki, president-in-waiting, recently involved in a bitter public dispute surrounding corruption allegations. On his left was Cyril Ramaphosa, outgoing ANC secretary general and overseer of the new constitution, who has opted for a business career after losing the battle to succeed the President.

As if internal power struggles were not enough, public expectations are tough to fulfil. "The constitution is important," said one man, even as the constitution was being signed. "But it's minor compared to jobs and houses."

While the gloss may have dulled, the historic significance of the day still reached most people. As Mr Mandela and the ANC's big guns left the platform a teenage boy brandished a poster of the mass funeral which followed the Sharpeville massacre. It showed scores of coffins in a long, neat line awaiting burial.

The boy thrust his poster forward. "Never again," he mouthed quietly. Then a little louder: "Never again."



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Former foes soothe the old war wounds

Germans and Czechs apologise after 60 years. **Adrian Bridge** reports

Czech government officials yesterday confirmed that after two years' negotiation, agreement had been reached with Germany on a declaration aimed at drawing a line under one of the last pieces of unfinished business dating back to the war: the Sudeten German issue.

Foreign ministry officials in Prague said that the Czechs had agreed to express regret over "injustices" that took place during the mass expulsion of more than 2.5 million Sudeten Germans after the war.

German officials confirmed that Bonn was prepared to apologise for the injustices suffered by the Czechs under the Nazis and to admit that the Nazi occupation, which began with Hitler's annexation of the largely German-speaking Sudetenland in 1938, laid the foundation for the subsequent expulsions.

"The German side ... is aware of the fact that the National Socialist policy of violence against the Czech people helped to create the basis for the post-war escape, expulsion and forced resettlement [of the Sudeten Germans]," states the declaration, which is set to be initialled next week and formally signed by the Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Prague early next year.

"The Czech side is sorry," the document continues, "that by the post-war expulsion, as well as by the forced resettlement of Sudeten Germans from then Czechoslovakia, by expropriating and revoking citizenship, much suffering and injustice was caused to innocent people."

The mutual apologies come almost 60 years after the infamous Munich Pact that ceded the Sudetenland to Hitler in a bid to satisfy his territorial ambitions, and more than 50 years after the decrees which authorised the expulsion and often violent hounding of Sudeten Germans out of their homes.

The Germans are long used to apologising for actions done in Hitler's name. And, alongside the words, Bonn has pledged some 140m marks for a Czech-German Future Fund, a key aim of which will be to compensate Czech victims of Nazism.

For the Czechs, however, it is a novel experience. Under Communism, the legitimacy of the expulsions – accompanied by mob-style lynchings – was never questioned, and even today many Czechs feel they were totally justified, given what had gone before.

Despite the apology the declaration makes it clear that the validity of the expulsions will not be questioned and there will be no question of compensation for those who were expelled.

"Unlike the Germans we are only just beginning to digest our past," said Adam Cerny, a commentator on the weekly *Tydenik*. "But while we can now bring ourselves to say sorry for some aspects of the expulsions, we could never accept a reversal of their legal validity."

Representatives of the expelled Sudeten Germans, most of whom settled in Bavaria, have fought to have the decrees declared illegal. They yesterday dismissed the declaration and vowed to continue their fight for "justice" and the right to return to their former homeland. Although most of the expellees are now dead, annual Sudeten German rallies in Nuremberg attract crowds of more than 100,000 and the groups remain an important political force in Bavaria.

Most Czechs and Germans, however, hope the declaration will pave the way to a genuine reconciliation. Looking ahead, the document stresses Bonn's whole-hearted support for the Czech Republic's bid to join Nato and the European Union.

Nato to issue Eastern bloc invitations

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent

Invitations to Central and East European states to join the Nato alliance will be issued at a summit meeting in Madrid on 8-9 July, Nato foreign ministers announced in Brussels yesterday. Nato also confirmed it foresaw no need to base nuclear weapons on the territory of new members, although the communiqué stopped short of making a formal guarantee.

Foreign ministers from Nato's 16 nations were meeting at one of the more important recent sessions of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) to fix the date for the summit, discuss their relations with Russia and confirm arrangements for the Nato-led peacekeeping operation in Bosnia. Today they are joined by the Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, in the North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC) – "sixteen plus one".

Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are the most likely countries to be in the first wave to join Nato on or before its 50th anniversary in April 1999. Slovenia and Romania are also candidates, though the former is more likely, as it forms a land bridge between Italy and Hungary.

The declaration on nuclear weapons will go some way to reassuring Russia about Nato's expansion, though Russia remains publicly opposed to it. With short-range nuclear missiles and artillery withdrawn from Nato Europe, and the increased reliance of Britain, France and the US on long range submarine- and air-launched nuclear weapons, there is no military reason to put nuclear weapons into the territory of new Nato members.

Nato repeated last week's call from the London conference on Bosnia for the local parties to implement last year's Dayton peace agreement in full. Western leaders feel they have dragged their feet on implementing arms-control provisions and handing over indicted war criminals. Last week's London conference thus placed great stress on "conditionality" – making further aid dependent on compliance.

Nato also issued a statement deploring the decision of the government in neighbouring Serbia to annul the opposition victories in recent municipal elections. It called on the Serbian government "to respect the democratic will of the people by reversing that decision".

The Nato meeting confirmed that the 31,000-strong Stabilisation Force, S-For, which will take over from the Peace Implementation Force, I-For, on 20 December, "will retain the same unity of command, robust rules of engagement, enforcement authority and status of forces that has made I-For a success".

S-For "will contribute to a secure environment necessary for the consolidation of peace by deterring or, if necessary, halting a resumption of hostilities. It will also provide time for political reconciliation and economic reconstruction to gain momentum."

Some 17 non-Nato countries had also said they would send troops to join S-For. Nato said the emphasis of international efforts "must continue to move increasingly to the civilian aspects of the peace agreement".

WATERPROOF
WINDPROOF
BREATHABLE
SYMPATEX
ALL-WEATHER FASHION CLOTHING BY
FRANK EDEN
LADIESWEAR

Life on the edge: Hit squads have killed some of Rio's street children, accused by shopkeepers of 'sullying the neighbourhood' Photograph: Susan Griggs

Brazil's alleged child killers go free

Phil Davison
Latin America Correspondent

In a judgment which stunned Brazilian human-rights workers, a court yesterday acquitted three men, including two police officers, of the 1993 massacre of eight children outside Rio de Janeiro's Candelaria cathedral. The defendants were suspected of acting as "hit men" for shopkeepers who accused the children of shoplifting and "sullying the neighbourhood".

In a bizarre 10-hour trial which ended in the small hours, it was the state prosecution, not the defence, which recommended acquittal in its summing up.

In the words of one human-rights campaigner, Dr Yvonne Bezerra de Mello: "It could only happen in Brazil, and with so-called justice like this, it probably will. People are going to keep killing."

The ruling means only two of at least eight defendants named by eyewitnesses for the Candelaria massacre will serve time. And the two, although they confessed and were sentenced to longer-than-lifetime terms, are reportedly still being paid by the state and working within a Rio military police barracks. With various reductions, troopers Marcus Vinicus Emmanuel and Nelson Cunha may be free within two years, or even earlier if they win pending retrials.

Survivors said two carloads of well-known local policemen in civilian clothes pulled up outside the cathedral on the night of 23 July 1993. They pulled out guns and opened fire on 70 children sleeping on the pavement. Six died on the spot, several were wounded and two were taken away and executed on the city's waterfront.

It was an open secret that local businessmen had paid policemen in the past to move the children out of the area and beat them up. Many residents had backed a "clean up" campaign. After a newspaper advertisement appeared with the headline "Kill a Child Criminal", the editor insisted it was not to be taken seriously.

According to human-rights workers, the judgment made a mockery of pledges by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to punish the country's endemic police brutality. "This is impunity," said Dr Bezerra de Mello, a millionaire's wife who spends her time looking after homeless children in Rio. "The court would not allow eyewitness survivors to testify. And anyway, we couldn't bring children survivors as witnesses because the police would have killed them. The prosecution was supposed to defend these kids. Instead, they defended the defendants."

Dr Bezerra de Mello said she believed the prosecution must have made a deal with the defence. Prosecutors expressed little sympathy for the victims and attacked Dr Bezerra de Mello personally for helping them. "They [the prosecutors] accused me of organising the kids, of encouraging them to do drugs."

The key witness to the massacre, Wagner dos Santos, was shot and wounded the following year after identifying several of the massacre gunmen. Dr Bezerra de Mello smuggled him to Switzerland for his protection. He returned to give evidence in the trial of Vinicus Emmanuel earlier this year but was forced to flee abroad again after further threats.

Suicide judge's sex secret revealed

Robert Milliken
Sydney

When David Yeldham, one of Australia's most respected former judges, committed suicide last month, the country was shocked.

Yesterday, after weeks of rumours, some of the answers fell into place when a royal commission revealed he had confessed, hours before he died, to a secret life of paying men for sex in Sydney's public lavatories.

It was the latest in a litany of disclosures to come before the commission, which has spent two years investigating corruption in the New South Wales police force. Yeldham's name first came up in October, when Franca Arena, an MP in the New South Wales parliament, asked if he had received "preferential treatment" during the commission's investigation of paedophilia.

Yeldham, 67, was a state Supreme Court judge for 16 years before retiring in 1990. He was a QC, married with three children and lived in Hunters Hill, one of Sydney's most exclusive neighbourhoods.

He publicly denied he was a paedophile and four days later gassed himself in his car outside his home. Yesterday it emerged he had been secretly interviewed by the royal commission twice in those four days. The commission released edited transcripts. "I'm bisexual, let's face it," Yeldham said on 31 October. "I've got a wife and three children and four grandchildren and I love young children and I'm involved in children's charities. But I've never ever, nor would I ever, have any sexual conduct with anyone who is under 18. I mean, I abhor paedophilia. I can't help being bisexual. That's something I was born with, I suppose."

Police apprehended Yeldham at least twice after complaints were made about his behaviour in lavatories at two Sydney railway stations. In December 1988, while still on the bench, he was found in a cubicle with another man. In 1990, after he had retired, he allegedly masturbated on a lavatory stairway at another station.

Questions raised on independence of Australian judicial system

No charges were ever laid against Yeldham.

His case was handled not just by the ordinary police force but by the Special Branch, which appears to have let him off the hook.

The questions now being asked about the affair are: Why was his flagrant public sexual conduct taken on by the Special Branch, whose role is usually confined to cases involving security and extremist political activity? Did police not charge Yeldham because they expected to extract favours from him in judgments from the bench? How much did his fellow judges know of his secret life? And, crucially, how independent is the Australian judiciary?

In his interviews, Yeldham admitted that he always paid money to men to have sex with him at stations.

He maintained that he "could tell by looking" if one of his "encounters" was under the age of 18.

On 4 November, he said: "I'm of course deeply ashamed." But he regarded his offences as "relatively minor".

The commission's interviewer asked him: "In terms of your own performance on the bench judicially, did it worry you that these people might blackmail you?"

"Yes," said the former judge.

"Well, how did you cope with that fear of blackmail?"

"I think I just ... well I, I didn't think too much about it, quite frankly."

"And, with the ages of the encounters then, at any stage between 1974, when you went on the bench, and as at today, I presume that you would never ask them their age?"

"That's right," the former judge replied. "Never."

Hours after this interview, Yeldham returned home and killed himself.

significant shorts

Nobel winners call for Timor peace talks

Two East Timor human rights campaigners received their 1996 Nobel Peace Prize yesterday and immediately called on Indonesia to open talks on a peace settlement in the small Indonesian-ruled territory.

Carlos Belo a Catholic Bishop and and Jose Ramos-Horta, a self-exiled activist, were handed their Nobel gold medals and diplomas in a solemn ceremony in City Hall, Oslo, before several hundred dignitaries, including King Harald of Norway. The Nobel Committee chairman Francis Sejersted, who presented the laureates with the £800,000 prize, said they were awarded "for their long-lasting efforts to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the 20-year-old conflict in East Timor".
Reuter – Oslo

Mobutu plans return to Zaire

The President of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, convalescing in France from cancer surgery, plans to return to his embattled homeland next week, on of his aides said yesterday. Mobutu's protocol chief, Bosco Cassoubia, said the exact day of his departure had not yet been decided.

For over a month, Mr Mobutu has been recuperating from prostate cancer at his Riviera villa near Nice. He has been out of Zaire since August, and has watched from abroad as the central African nation struggles to contain a rebellion and a refugee crisis.
AP – Roquebrune-Cap-Martin

Court rejects election appeal

Yugoslavia's federal supreme court has rejected an appeal by the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition to be reinstated as victors of municipal elections in Belgrade, the city election commission said. The decision appeared to exhaust the legal avenues open to Zajedno which has conducted a campaign of demonstrations against what they say is election rigging by the ruling socialist party of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic. *Reuter – Belgrade*

One fish brings in £60,000

Iranian fishermen caught a 14ft, 500kg sturgeon with 54kg of high-quality caviar worth £60,000 off the east coast of the Caspian sea last week. Exports of caviar earned Iran nearly £30m in the year ending March 1996.
Reuter – Tehran

French police swoop on blast suspects

French police swooped on suspected Muslim militants yesterday, rounding up 15 people in dawn raids across Paris a week after the bombing of a city train which killed four people.

Investigators said the raids targeted a network run by Ahmed Zaoui, the former European leader of Algeria's Islamic Armed Group (GIA). He was given a suspended four-year jail sentence by a Belgian court in November 1995. *Reuter – Paris*

Austria hunts letter bombers

A letter bomb sent to the step-mother of Austria's interior minister is the work of the extreme-rightist group or individual responsible for five earlier series, a senior police officer said.

Chief Inspector Robert Sturm said the letter bomb, which exploded on Monday while being examined by police, was "with certainty" made by the so-called Bayuvarian Liberation Front, the rabidly anti-foreigner group behind most of over a dozen letter bombs posted since December 1993.
AP – Vienna

'Where Kim has visited'

In a sign that the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, is in firm control, a monument dedicated to him is being erected at the border village of Panmunjom, South Korean officials said.

The stone monument commemorates Kim's rare visit to the neutral village inside the demilitarised zone on 24 November. "This is where General Kim Jong Il has visited" is inscribed on the monument. The monument dedicated to the junior Kim is another sign that he is ready to assume power formally, more than two years after his father died, at age 82. *AP – Seoul*

Police beat off McWannabes

Belarus police beat students with truncheons as they descended on the former Soviet republic's first McDonald's restaurant, in Minsk, believing free food was on offer.

About 4,000 people, many of them students keen to try their first "Big Mac", filled the central avenue of the capital as the fast-food giant celebrated opening its doors in a 100th country.

Cheers mixed with screams as riot police set to with truncheons to stop them crushing their way into the restaurant.
Reuter – Minsk

NZ rival joins Bolger in coalition

David Barber
Wellington

Maverick New Zealand politician, Winston Peters, who vowed to oust the conservative National Party government in October's general election, yesterday led his New Zealand First party into a coalition with it.

Mr Peters will be deputy to Prime Minister Jim Bolger, who threw him out of his cabinet five years ago, precipitating his expulsion from the National Party. He will also hold the new cabinet portfolio of Treasurer, giving him immense economic power, including the right to write budgets.

The decision marked an about-face by Mr Peters, who bitterly attacked Mr Bolger – Prime Minister for the last six years – during the recent election campaign, saying he was not fit to govern. The 50-year-old Maori courted controversy by criticising immigrants who he claimed had no commitment to New Zealand. He denied that he was racist.

NZ First's 17 MPs, who hold the balance of power following the inconclusive election, took nine hours yesterday to decide to join the 44 National MPs in the centre-right government rather than form a centre-left administration with the main opposition Labour Party.

Winston Peters: Expelled from National Party

Mr Peters and senior advisers had spent almost eight weeks negotiating detailed coalition agreements with the Nationals and Labour before putting them before his MPs. The length of yesterday's meeting indicated a vigorous debate, though Mr Peters said the final decision was by consensus. He said the decision was made in the interest of "the welfare and well-being of all New Zealanders".

The coalition will have an overall majority of only one in the 12-seat House of Representatives, but are likely to be supported on most issues by eight MPs of the right-wing ACT NZ party and the single United NZ member.

The National Party has made big concessions on economic policy, including deferring NZ$1.1bn (£400,000) tax cuts scheduled for next July. The cuts were a major plank of National's campaign policy, but NZ First wanted them delayed to fund increased spending on social policies.

obituaries / gazette

Mary Leakey

Mary Leakey was the world's most famous palaeolithic archaeologist and finder of East African fossil hominids.

With her husband, the late Louis Leakey, and later followed by her son, Richard, she was responsible in large part for the success of the "family business" in enlightening the world about the origins of mankind in Africa and in particular in Kenya and her beloved Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Her documentation of the stone tools from this site and the demonstration of their cultural sequence will stand as a testament to her academic achievement as long as people are curious about prehistory. In the popular world she will be best remembered by the discovery of numerous hominid fossils at Olduvai Gorge as well as the find of the fossil footprints at Laetoli, Tanzania, of man-like creatures who walked upright on two legs at least 3.6 million years ago.

She was born Mary Nicol, into a world that was comfortable, just before the Great War; her father was Erskine Nicol, the Scottish landscape artist, and her early childhood education was by a governess. After the war the family travelled in Switzerland and the South of France where they lived for many years. This early experience never left her and she spoke French fluently. As a child she visited some excavations near Les Eyzies being conducted by Elie Peyrony, where she worked with the Abbé Lemozi at Cabrerets, developed the artistic gift she got from her father by drawing stone tools and also helped with the excavations. Her great-great-great grandfather was John Frère, the first Englishman to recognise that certain flaked flints were the work of man and were indeed stone tools. It could be said, therefore, that archaeology was truly in her blood.

Her world was shattered when her father died suddenly in 1926 and the family returned to London, and she to a convent school and conventional society. Her rebellious nature asserted itself; she was expelled from school more than once. Her interest in archaeology was sustained although she never became a formal student or took a degree. Indeed all her degrees from all over the world were honorary doctorates.

In the early Thirties she took part in digs supervised by Dorothy Liddell and through her met Gertrude Caton-Thomson. Caton-Thomson was a formidable figure in Middle Eastern archaeology who was based at Oxford and whose book *The Desert Fayoum* (1934) Mary was asked to illustrate. This was important enough but even more so was the fact that it led to a meeting with Louis Leakey, the Kenyan archaeologist who was making a name for himself academically. Louis Leakey left his first wife and two young children in late 1934 and by 1935 Mary had joined him in Tanzania; together they drove to Olduvai with her suitcase tied on to the back of the car. Thus began an association with Olduvai that lasted over 50 years.

Olduvai Gorge is an offshoot of the Great Rift Valley of East Africa that is about 30 miles long and cuts across the Serengeti plain. Successive rainy seasons over time have cut the Gorge down to base rock. The overlying deposits are sequential but faulted and contain numerous fossils of animals that lived in the area over the past two million years or so. It is a site rich in fossils, since the conditions for preservation seem to have been right, in that volcanoes nearby spouted alkaline ash which, coupled with rain, allowed bones to fossilise. In addition the exposures have revealed stone tools of a variety of shapes and sizes. Coupled with the beauty of the Serengeti, the animals in vast herds and the joy of companionship, Mary Leakey was enchanted. Even after 50 years the thrill of returning to Olduvai never left her and she communicated that excitement to all of those lucky enough to go there with her.

From 1937 onwards Louis and Mary lived from hand to mouth, from grant to grant. The Directorship of the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi (now the National Museum) was an honorary appointment but at least gave them a home in the museum bungalow. Whenever the chance arose in the dry season they went to Olduvai and collected fossils in quantity. Louis Leakey took the view in those days that the origin of man was to be found in Africa and not in Asia, as was commonly believed following the finds of Java Man by Eugène Dubois and Ralph von Koenigswald, and he was confident that one day the evidence would be found. After one or two false starts he was proved right.

Of the two Mary was the meticulous painstaking excavator and searcher while Louis was restless, exuberant and intuitive. It was not until 1959 that their first important find was made. This was the skull of a robust australopithecine ape-man that was complete but for the jaw, and found in Bed 1, the lowest and oldest of the fossiliferous beds. It was found by Mary, because Louis was in bed with influenza. This was not the last time that Mary was the one to make the big find. This was the real breakthrough; the world of anthropology, which had not always treated Louis Leakey with respect, was staggered by the find that proved ape-men not to be confined to South Africa and, even further, showed these creatures to be dated at one and three-quarter million years before the present. The skull was shown to conferences and fame (and later some fortune) was the result. Grant moneys suddenly became easier to obtain.

Stone tools were found in the same layer as the skull, but was the owner of the skull the author of the tools? Another season was to pass before light was to be thrown on that problem with the find of a little hand, a little foot and part of a braincase. Louis Leakey, Phillip Tobias and John Napier startled the world by according to this creature the status of a member of our own genus, with a foot that came from a biped, a hand that was capable of making the tools found alongside it, and a brain bigger than that of the known ape-men.

During all this excitement Mary tended to take a back seat. Louis revelled in the limelight, lectured world-wide and debated his finds with anyone who would listen – Mary continued her work in the Gorge collecting stone tools from all of the successive layers, documenting, measuring, classifying, drawing and eventually defining the cultures and their succession from what she termed the Oldowan in Bed 1 at the bottom to the Naisiusiu at the top. She was assisted in this by Richard Hay, a geologist from Berkeley University, California, whose dating expertise confirmed the chronological sequence. The result of this work was a series of monographs on the archaeology of the Olduvai Gorge, bed by bed, *Olduvai Gorge: volume 3, Excavations in Beds I and II* (1971) and *volume 5, Excavations in Beds III, IV and the Masek Beds* (1994), that will stand for all time as a monumental work in the true sense of the world – it is in itself a monument to her persistence, to her diligence, to her judgement and to her courage in undertaking this huge task and surviving to finish it.

Meticulous and painstaking: Mary and Louis Leakey on the discovery of an almost complete skull of australopithecine ape-man in 1959 Photograph: Hulton Getty

In 1970 Louis Leakey died and many wondered if this would be the end of the work at Olduvai. Those who thought that, did not know her. Work continued at the Gorge and another site was opened nearby named Laetoli. Fossil hominids were found there that were earlier than those known from Olduvai and even earlier than the famous "Lucy" from Ethiopia that had been attributed to a new species of ape-man, *Australopithecus afarensis*.

Controversially her fossils were attributed to this group, by others. Typically she did not indulge in an academic slanging match but let her work speak for itself. It was Laetoli, however, that was the scene of her greatest triumph. The discovery in 1975 of fossilised animal footprints in solidified volcanic ash that was more than three and a half million years old alerted her to the possibility that there could be hominids also escaping this eruption.

Perhaps their footprints would be uncovered and their form of walking disclosed. By dint of painstaking work, and not a little luck, in 1978 three trails of footprints were discovered. Subsequent analysis showed that their form of walking was incontrovertibly heel-toe striding. The evidence of bipedalism does not depend upon anatomists' opinions of bones or statisticians' sums, it is there for all to see. The contours of the prints match those of modern man and his method of locomotion.

What of the woman herself? Was it all academic work? By no means was that the case. She was a breeder of pedigree Dalmations who showed regularly, a wildlife expert of the Africa she loved, an expert on East African rock art, an inveterate and unrepentant cigar smoker and evening whisky drinker, and a devotee of detective fiction with a weakness for Miss Marple, a character she resembled in more ways than one. In camp, however, the rules were clear and had to be obeyed – the courtesies of an English drawing room were adapted but still applied. Meals were to be attended on time as a courtesy to the cooks, nobody retired until the animals and the staff had been "fed and watered". (One distinguished academic was sent home from Olduvai on the bus for a transgression against a Dalmatian.) Despite this seemingly fearsome reputation her sense of humour usually prevailed. A visit to the camp at Olduvai was a privilege and always provided oustanding memories to all who were lucky enough to be asked and who took part in the work of her excavations.

Michael Day

Mary Douglas Nicol, archaeologist and anthropologist: born 6 February 1913; married 1936 Louis Leakey (died 1972; three sons, and one daughter deceased); died Nairobi, Kenya 9 December 1996.

Raphael Samuel

Raphael Samuel brought to the writing and popularisation of history a seemingly inexhaustible energy and creativity. He was also an inspired teacher and the author of books and essays which have expanded beyond recognition the intellectual and imaginative ranges both of English history and of the writing of history itself.

But he was not only a teacher and a writer; he was also an organiser and a prophet, a close, sometimes uncanny reader of "the signs of the times". He preached and practised a new vision of a popular history: a democratic history which put the everyday lives of ordinary people at the heart of a large and even sweeping history of the nations of Britain over the last two centuries.

Samuel gave new meaning to the idea of history as an experimental art, inventing the History Workshop (a term he borrowed from one of his heroines, Joan Littlewood, founder of Theatre Workshop) first as a local and then as an international movement. The extent of his empathy was exceptional. No one charted more exactly the ways in which the Industrial Revolution had increased the extent of toil in every branch of Victorian industry, but no one could have acknowledged more generously the contribution of Tory antiquaries in Early Hanoverian England to the writing of a national history. His cast of historical actors ranged from the Catholic priests ministering among the post-famine Irish poor, the proletarian Gladstonian roughs of Headington Quarry through South Wales village Bolsheviks in the 1920s, to the mobsters of the Edwardian East End underworld.

His insights were the product of an omnivorous intellectual appetite which crossed disciplines and periods: Samuel wrote with the insights of a literary critic, the acuity of an anthropologist and the wit of a political journalist. Up until his last hours he remained passionately engaged with the future of history, both of his own many projects and those of the many friends and admirers whom he had helped to inspire.

Raphael Samuel was brought up in a London household which was Jewish and Communist. His political education and his love for history were nurtured by progressive schooling at King Alfred's School, Hampstead, and Balliol College, Oxford, where he became a devoted student, and later friend, of Christopher Hill. In 1956 he left the Communist Party which had done so much to shape his youthful years and was one of the founder editors, together with Stuart Hall and Charles Taylor, of what was soon to become *New Left Review*. He settled in Spitalfields in east London in an early-18th-century house which contrived to have been inhabited by Jews, Jacobins and silk-weavers. This was to become his own workshop and later on the home which he made with his wife, the writer and critic Alison Light.

In 1962 Samuel was appointed Tutor in Sociology at Ruskin College, Oxford, a trade-union supported institution which prepared for university working people who had left school without qualifications. Upon this post he stamped his genius. He was a brilliant, if eccentric, teacher. Rather than submitting his students to the textbook learning of vocational courses, Samuel believed that every person had a history/story of importance to tell, and one which they could be empowered to write, thus becoming the historians of their own past. As one student wrote: "I came to Ruskin knowing I could not write an essay and left Ruskin sure that I could write a book." To those who took up this challenge Samuel was a source of, sometimes obstinate, always uplifting, faith in themselves. He led people on journeys of creative self-discovery by blowing away the walls which separated working people from literary culture.

From Ruskin, beginning in 1966, Samuel also launched a series of national workshops on topics which were then unheard of as the stuff of history and are now the *sine qua non* of every history course: women's history, the history of childhood, empire and patriotism, the changing definition of nations, the cultural diversity of Britain. Participation in these workshops in the 1970s and 1980s sometimes encompassed thousands. These gatherings had not only a political aim – the exploration of difficult areas of national life – but also a radical pedagogic purpose. Established professors and well-known intellectuals shared platforms with Ruskin students, offering the first fruit of their research.

Samuel did not call for the dismantling of conventional academic hierarchies, he simply dismantled them. Many of the contributors – professional historians and students – became the first writers for the *History Workshop Journal* which he co-founded in 1975 and is now a leading international historical review. Here, a group of radical historians formed an extended family which soon stretched to all continents, but which had at its centre Samuel's tireless inspiration and continuous intellectual growth.

In the 1980s, when so many intellectuals of the Left retreated from the public sphere or fell silent, Samuel was intrigued rather than repelled by Thatcherite Britain. Thatcherism expressed and mobilised some deep-rooted popular yearnings which Samuel was determined to understand. He was not afraid to share some of the enthusiasms in popular culture which others spurned. The new leisure-time pursuits of the 1980s fascinated him as much as Staffordshire figurines and Victorian music-hall.

Samuel: 'signs of the times' Photograph: Lucinda Douglas-Menzies

This engagement with the continuous remaking of a people's past, through the barely remarked and kaleidoscopic shifts in popular sources of enthusiasm and identification, began to be put together in his *magnum opus, Theatres of Memory*, the first volume of which appeared in 1994. Samuel was a powerful, idiosyncratic thinker. But in his own inimitable way, he long anticipated an understanding of culture which is now global.

Even in his last year, Raphael Samuel was engaged in new projects. He became professor at the University of East London and began to form a centre of London history.

Gareth Stedman Jones

Raphael Elkan Samuel, historian: born London 26 December 1934; married 1987 Alison Light; died London 9 December 1996.

Dame Joan Hammond

In her excellent obituary of Dame Joan Hammond [28 November], Elizabeth Forbes did not mention Hammond's great love of sailing, writes **John Crisp**.

In the 1960s, she and her devoted companions Lolita Marriott and Estrées Walker (incidentally all three ladies owned a Rolls-Royce) spent much time in her motor yacht *Pankina* based in Poole Harbour. I, as a youngish naval officer, was privileged to be their navigator on cross-channel trips. Her constant concern for the welfare of others was illustrated in daily short trips out to sea to "ditch the garbage"; too many other yachts did that at their harbour moorings.

Joan Hammond also gave many recitals, usually accompanied by Ivor Newton, who had introduced me to her, and together they made her last recording, an LP mainly of English songs, in 1965.

Jose Luis Gonzalez, writer, died Mexico City 8 December, aged 70. His stories about Puerto Rico were translated into 10 languages.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

FLANAGAN: On 22 November, at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Julian and Caroline (née Dilworth), a daughter, Alice Caroline.

DEATHS

MANDELSTAM: Dorothy, died at home on 8 December 1996. A remarkable woman. Cremation private. Memorial service to be announced later.

***Announcements for Gazette* BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the *Gazette* Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).**

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen opens the new headquarters of the Institute of Physics at 76 Portland Place, London W1. The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, attends a meeting of the Royal Yachting Association Council at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London SW1; and, as President, Arnold Health Trust, attends a dinner at the Banqueting House, London SW1. Princess Margaret attends the British-American-Canadian Associates Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1. The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, attends a Senate Meeting at the Institute of Materials, London SW1; and, as Patron, the London Philharmonic, attends a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Birthdays

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, former Chief of Naval Staff, 77; Miss Anna Carteret, actress, 54; Lord Elliott of Morpeth, former MP and government minister, 76; Sir Robert Fellowes, Private Secretary to the Queen, 55; Mr David Gates, singer, 56; Miss Jermaine Jackson, rock singer, 42; Dr Betty Kershaw, President, Royal College of Nursing, 53; Miss Brenda Lee, rock singer, 52; Mr Cliff Michelmore, television producer and broadcaster, 77; Sir Wilfrid Newton, former chairman, London Regional Transport, 68; Mr David Plowright, deputy chairman of Channel 4 Television, 66; Mr Carlo Ponti, film director and producer, 83; Mr Patrick Reyntiens, designer and artist in stained glass, 71; Mr Raymond Robertson MP, 37; Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn, author, 78; Miss Sarah Spencer, former general secretary, National Council for Civil Liberties, 44; Miss Sheila Walker, former Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides, 79.

Anniversaries

Births: Louis-Hector Berlioz, composer, 1803; Louis-Charles Alfred de Musset, playwright and poet, 1810; Fiorello Henry La Guardia, mayor of New York City, 1882. **Deaths:** Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, last native Prince of Wales, 1282; Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, soldier, 1686; Colley Cibber, playwright and actor, 1757; Jean-François Casimir Delavigne, playwright and poet, 1843; Sir Douglas James Jardine, soldier and diplomat, 1946; Egbert Roscoe (Ed) Murrow, journalist and broadcaster, 1965. **On this day:** James II fled from England, 1688; Ferdinand VII became king of Spain after the abdication of his father, Charles VI, 1814; the British, led by Lord Methuen, were repulsed by the Boers under Piet Cronje at the Battle of Magersfontein, Orange Free State, 1899; public buildings were burnt in Dublin, the damage being estimated at £3m, 1920; the new Waterloo Bridge was opened, 1945. Today is the Feast Day of St Barsabas, St Damasus I, Pope, St Daniel the Stylite and Saints Fusciamus, Victoricus and Gentianus.

Lectures

National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "Peter Blake (ii): popular icons of traditional art", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Amelia Fearn, "Silver for Tea, Coffee and Chocolate", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Catherine Lever, "Working and Idling in Late 19th- and Early 20th-century Art", 1pm.

Gresham College (held at the Royal Geographical Society, London SW7): Professor Colin Pillinger, "Life on Mars?", 7pm.

King's College London, London WC2: Dr Elie Zahar, "Does Poincaré's Geometrical Conventionalism Deserve its Name?", 5.15pm.

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Sir Nicholas Bonsor Bt MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a lunch held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of the Ambassadors of the Baltic States, and to bid farewell to Mr Janis Lusis, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia.

Newspaper Society
Mr Robin Burgess, President, Newspaper Society, was the host at a lunch held yesterday at the Newspaper Society, London WC1, in honour of Lord Williams of Mostyn QC.

Dinners

HM Government
Mr Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of State for Defence, and Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam.

HMS *Victory*
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, hosted a dinner yesterday evening onboard his flagship HMS *Victory* at Portsmouth Naval Base. Among those present were:

Mr Mendi Msimang, High Commissioner for South Africa; Lord Irvine of Lairg, Shadow Lord Chancellor, and Lady Irvine; Captain Arne Soderlund, Naval Adviser to the High Commissioner for South Africa, and Mrs Lyn Soderlund.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Professor Peter Hall, Professor Duncan Maclennan and Mr Rodney A.R. Green were the speakers. Their subject was "Can we Live in the City of the Future?"

Commonwealth Foundation
Dr Humayan Khan, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, was the host at a farewell dinner held yesterday evening at Marlborough House, London SW1, for the outgoing chairman of the foundation, Sir Richard Luce, and Lady Luce. Chief Emeka Anyaoku was the speaker.

Changes in prison rules were not unlawful

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and another, ex parte Hargreaves and others; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Pill) 20 November 1996

A decision of the Home Secretary to change the prison rules, so that a prisoner had to wait until he had served half of his sentence before becoming elegible for home leave, instead of only a third, did not frustrate any legitimate expectations on the prisoner's part so as to entitle him to judicial review of the decision.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Brendan Green, Kevin Briggs and Craig Hargreaves against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisonal Court on 25 July 1995 ([1996] COD 168) refusing their applications for judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision to implement a new scheme governing the eligibility of prisoners to apply for home leave, and of an order of the governor of HM Prison Risley applying the new scheme to each of the applicants.

Patrick Elias QC and Terence Galliwan (Reece David Wood Wild & Co, Birmingham) for the applicants; Michael Beloff QC and Steven Kovats (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondents.

LAW REPORT

11 December 1996

Lord Justice Hirst said the three applicants were category C prisoners at Risley. Prior to the implemention of the new system, each would have been entitled to apply for home leave after serving one third of his sentence. Under the new scheme, he was entitled to apply only after serving half his sentence.

Each argued that as a result of the new policy, he was deprived of the legitimate expectation that he would be considered eligible for home leave after he had served a third of his sentence. Each relied on a notice received from the prison authorities when he began his sentence, and also on the terms of the compact he then entered into with the prison governor.

The change was effected by the Prison (Amendment) Rules 1995 (SI 983) which replaced the provisions of rule 6 of the Prison Rules 1964. The new rule was introduced as a result of problems with the existing regime, such as absconding or the commission of offences by prisoners while on leave, which had attracted adverse publicity, to the detriment of public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Divisional Court, in rejecting the applications, placed strong reliance on the House of Lords' decision in *Re Findlay* [1985] 1 AC 318 at 337. It concerned a decision by the Home Secretary in 1983 to change the policy for release of prisoners on parole in relation to certain classes of serious offenders, such as drug traffickers and violent offenders sentenced to more than five years, by deferment of parole until the final months of their sentence, and for certain categories of murderers by deferment until they had served at least 20 years of their life sentence. Rejecting a claim that this decision frustrated prisoners' legitimate expectations, Lord Scarman said:

> The most a convicted prisoner can legitimately expect is that his case will be examined individually in the light of whatever policy the Secretary of State sees fit to adopt, provided always the adopted policy is a lawful exercise of the discretion conferred on him by statute.

The present applicants sought to distinguish *Findlay* on the footing that it was concerned not with when but with whether the prisoners should be granted parole; it dealt with eligibility not with timing. His Lordship did not accept that.

First, it was clear that timing was at the forefront of the applicants' argument in that case. Second, in considering elegibility for parole, timing was one of the main criteria and was in fact the one changed under the new policy of 1983. Third, the passage quoted from Lord Scarman was clearly of general application to all prisoners affected by the change of policy. On this interpretation, the present case was indistinguishable from *Findlay*.

In any case, a representation could only be relied upon as the basis for a legitimate expectation if it was clear and unambiguous. The notice to prisoners and the compact with the governor relied upon in this case did not, taken as a whole, contain a clear and unambiguous representation as to timing, so were not a proper foundation for the legitimate expectation for which the applicants contended.

It was, however, unsatisfactory that documents of such importance to prisoners should be other than completely clear and unambiguous.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

Our blind eyes helped the paedophiles prey

Suppose 3,000 children, living conventionally at home with their parents, had been preyed upon by paedophiles. Imagine that they were on the way home from school, homework sticking out of satchels, and socks sagging. But suppose that each night, before reaching the comfort of tea and telly, those children were accosted by strangers, raped, bullied and abused. Parents would be in outcry, let alone extreme distress. The entire nation would have erupted, fuelled by screaming headlines. Politicians would have launched inquiry after inquiry. And no-one would have rested until the culprits were rounded up.

Except, of course, it could never have happened like this. The systematic abuse by strangers of thousands of ordinary children from ordinary families is simply impossible. Too many parents would notice too quickly and make too much fuss. Those children are largely safe – the people likely to abuse them are not strangers, but members of their own families.

However, we now learn that a lot of children from not so ordinary families may not have been safe at all. And no one noticed or batted an anxious eyelid about them for years. Today we report on a new inquiry into sexual abuse in children's homes in Merseyside. The police want to trace more than 3,000 former residents who passed through 15 different homes during the Seventies and Eighties. In neighbouring Cheshire, the biggest investigation yet is taking place into child abuse in children's homes; several former care workers have already been imprisoned. And in Clwyd, North Wales, a judicial public inquiry into institutional child abuse is set to start in the new year, after official inquiries were covered up. All three of these inquiries have been disclosed by this paper: the Merseyside inquiry is just the latest, and may conceivably be connected to the other two.

Altogether, that means 10,000 possible victims will be interviewed in the North West alone. Of course many may have been happily oblivious to the violence against other children. Lucky them. Nevertheless, wide-scale abuse of children went unnoticed for decades.

It is not hard to see how it happened. Most of us were not, then, paying very much interest to what went on in children's homes, or what happened to their residents. These were the tough cases out on the edge of the social worker's case book.

Even the milder cases turned us off: the families in grim, cold poverty, battered wives, alcoholic husbands, drug-dealing older brothers and pregnant younger sisters. As for the children in the most extreme circumstances – those who were in danger, perhaps who were dangerous themselves, or who just had nowhere else to go – we didn't think about them at all. Stuck out there in a shadowy world, far away from conventional domestic security, they were easily dismissed as difficult and dysfunctional.

So we failed to set up systematic and sophisticated inspections of homes; we didn't monitor care workers, we didn't investigate staff records and we failed to provide the resources for a fully professional care service. We left the staff in children's homes pretty much to their own devices, and we paid them poorly so jobs were always vacant. We could hardly have made it any easier for disturbed people determined to abuse those children. Worst of all, when the children cried out, we did not hear. Even now that police investigations and inquiries are finally allowing those children to tell their tales, most of us are not listening. Yet the fact that this abuse took place in children's homes should make us more angry, not less. These children were taken into the care of the state – in other words, we were all responsible for them. What happened to them took place while they were a public responsibility.

We cannot be complacent about the future, either. It is true that much of the abuse that is now emerging took place a decade or more ago. Most local authority children's homes are now closed, with children sent to foster parents instead. The rules about caring for children have tightened up considerably, and social services are extremely sensitive to the possibility of sexual abuse.

However, our responsibility for children on the edge of society has not vanished. Nor has our predilection to ignore their predicament. Children in trouble are still easily swept under the carpet. That is why we launched our Christmas Appeal for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's work with victims of abuse. Residential centres that might appeal to paedophiles as employees still exist, albeit under different names: schools for children with learning difficulties, centres for teenagers with challenging behavioural problems, homes for children with mental handicaps. And, terribly, there are many children who continue to suffer abuse in their own apparently safe home environment, at the hands of fathers, uncles, relations, family friends.

That is why we should strive to resist the temptation to turn protectively inwards towards our own families in the face of other children's pain. It is easy to do. Horrific cases of child abuse in Belgium and Australia are starting to trigger a moral backlash and homophobia. Retreating back behind the myth of the nuclear family, putting up barriers against the outside world and rejecting people (and children) who are different to ourselves would be the worst thing we could possibly do. That, after all, is how we got into the mess in Merseyside, Cheshire and Clwyd in the first place. That is why we are asking you to support our small seasonal attempt to fund support for children who are suffering abuse, not a decade, or even two decades ago, but right now.

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You'd have to be green to believe it

One thing opinion polls are still good for is smoking out our national hypocrisies. *The Independent*'s poll today reveals that we say we are prepared to spend more on "green" products and cut down on the use of "ungreen" washing machines, televisions and cars. Ho, ho, ho, as we say in this season of hollow laughter. Just as we are prepared to pay higher taxes for better public services? It's not just politicians who say one thing and do another.

▪ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ▪

Caught in the adoption minefield

Sir: We would like to express our anger and disappointment at the decision by the Minister of Health to close the Overseas Adoption Helpline. As from March next year there will be no service dedicated to informing prospective adopters, childcare workers and medical and legal advisers about the complex processes in the sensitive area of inter-country adoption. The absence of this important resource will add pressure to local authority social services departments, which are already overstretched.

Since its foundation in 1992 the helpline has handled more than 13,000 inquiries about adopting children from almost 100 countries, and we know that interest is escalating. This year, there have already been three times as many applications to adopt children from China as last year.

The withdrawal of the Helpline will not mean that those who wish to adopt children from overseas will lose interest but that they may find it impossible to gain accurate information. We do know that the majority of inquirers decide not to proceed, many after talking to Helpline staff. Both the changing criteria of sending countries and the often complex approval process can present a minefield to prospective adopters, and ultimately the lack of service to them impacts on children.

This decision, coming so shortly after the omission of the draft Adoption Bill from the Queen's Speech, raises serious questions about the Government's commitment to international co-operation on the protection of children. The Bill would have enabled the UK to ratify the Hague Convention and thus be in a position to work co-operatively with the increasing number of other countries ratifying.

The good intentions of prospective adopters will not protect children living in poverty across the world from merciless exploitation by marketeers. The Government has a duty to ensure that safeguards are in place and not to dismantle existing provision before proper legislation is passed.

FELICITY COLLIER
Director, British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering
BRIAN WALLER
Chair, Children and Families Committee, Association of Directors of Social Services
DENISE PLATT
Under-Secretary for Social Services, Association of Metropolitan Authorities
STEPHEN CAMPBELL
Under-Secretary for Social Services, Association of County Councils
KEITH BILTON
Chair of Children & Families Sub-committee, British Association of Social Workers
PHILLY MORRALL
National Co-ordinator, Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services
PAT WORDLEY
Chair, Association of Families who have Adopted from Abroad
London SE1

Begging question

Sir: Sign at King's Cross Underground station in London: "Beware of professional beggars." Are we to understand that there are amateur beggars who just do it for love?

KIERAN COOPER
St Albans, Hertfordshire

A positive state of depression

Sir: Yvette Cooper adopts a wise stance in her article on chronic fatigue syndrome ("The disease that makes everyone an expert", 7 December). She is not, however, compelled by the needs of psychiatrists and other doctors to respond professionally to the sufferer's search for help. Such carers, whilst keeping open minds, are more driven to have some working hypothesis concerning the pathology confronting them.

Whether or not this disorder is eventually shown to be primarily or exclusively a variant of "depression" remains to be seen. Meanwhile, this latter state surely deserves greater respect. In Puritan times it was often considered a proper condition for the pilgrim confronting the higher reaches of life and striving to have some worthy impact. Thomas Hardy, in his novels, seems to have had a similar, more noble vision of it.

The point at which people give up in the face of problems is likely to vary with the extent of their engagement in them at all, as well as their psychological capacity then to cope.

Some may collapse more readily, inviting others to label them "unstable" or "inadequate" as implied by Yvette Cooper. Others only falter after striving mightily in life's arena, more so than many of us and beyond the call of duty – a process that may require powerful mental defence mechanisms to be in place. This may render it more likely that, eventually, any breakdown will express itself in physical rather than emotional terms. Such people may then be the most difficult to reach and help psychologically.

Perhaps we can make a start by coming to respect "depression" more in the individual, recognising it as sometimes a rather mature state of mind and, with appropriate help, a potential gateway to further personal growth; "sadder but wiser" and constructively so.

Professor ARTHUR CRISP
FRCPsych
London SW20

Dyslexia a step in evolution?

Sir: Susan Emmett's report on research into dyslexia ("Pill that can help dyslexics read better", 28 November) stated that 5 per cent of children are very dyslexic and 15 per cent have a mild form of this "disorder", which researchers say is caused by abnormal brain chemistry that might be corrected by fats.

I think more research should be devoted to the reason for the increasing number of children with this changing brain chemistry. Is it part of the evolutionary change of the human brain, adapting to needs of the future?

My son, now 46, was classed as "backward", unable to read at the age of eight and a half but having a wide vocabulary and a retentive mind. I eventually changed his school and teaching methods. He went on to gain a university degree and a professional qualification. His retentive memory of the spoken word is a considerable asset in his profession. His son, aged 13, was recognised as dyslexic at a fairly early age and received remedial assistance. He can read fluently, although his handwriting and drawing are not up to standard.

However, he appears to have abnormal ability at understanding computers. He is able to instruct one to draw to designs "in his head" and says that within his brain he can perceive virtual reality. His main interests and top grades are in physics and all science subjects.

Is dyslexia a brain "disorder", or the early recognisable stages of brain evolution?

LOUISE WILSON.
Crockenhill, Kent

Quebec moved on after 1759

Sir: The summary of history given on your Letters page by Pierre-Louis Mallen of the Institut de France ("'Foreign occupation' drove Quebeckers into the arms of Pétain", 7 December) – with English Canadians as occupants of Quebec ever since the 1759 Battle of the Plains of Abraham – is inadequate.

True, there was a military victory at Quebec City in 1759, and it resulted in a British occupation of New France. However, the demographics of Quebec have changed since 1759 and 20th-century Quebeckers, many of mixed French and English ancestry, are getting a little bored with this simplistic interpretation of over two centuries of subsequent history.

Imagine how much more irritating it must be to the descendants of the people who were already living in north-eastern North America when the first French settlers (or should we call them *occupants*?) arrived.

De Gaulle's visit caused great excitement among Quebeckers – many of them hoping for a future in a Quebec national state – who were rightly proud of their culture and their historic links with France. His dramatic speech, with its offensive allusion to the Nazi occupation of France, proved him an ardent champion of *la francophonie mondiale* but a lousy historian of Quebec.

Those of us who have recently heard too much of the expressions *Québecois pur laine* or *Québecois de souche* are only too aware how seductive such an oversimplification of Quebec history can be.

Even in the context of an analysis of pro-Pétain feeling in Quebec in the 1940s, it is irresponsible to reduce the rich complexity of modern Quebec to this "us and them" duality.

If M Mallen takes a short walk from the Institut to the Protestant library in the rue des Saint-Pères, or a longer walk to the former Jewish school in the Marais, he can see for himself how dangerously easy it is to teach people to regard their neighbours as foreigners, and what the appalling consequences can be.

ANNE THACKRAY
London NW3

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

US clouds in 'open skies'

Sir: Does Matt Paxton (letter, 9 December) really believe for a moment that a level playing field exists, when an American carrier can fly into London and then on to a European Union market bigger than the United States, but a British carrier can only fly from the US to destinations such as Ottawa and Bogota?

The Germans were robbed in their "open skies" deal with the US. It may have been open skies for the Americans, but the door of the US domestic market has been slammed in Lufthansa's face.

If the British don't want to be duped into a similar deal it's about time we got off our nationalist high horse and allowed the European Commission to negotiate "open skies" from a position of strength, as is sensibly done with every other area of trade policy.

DINOS KYROU
Department of International Relations
University of Aberdeen

Respectable gloss

Sir: I have noticed a tendency within the "quality" media – *The Independent* included – to confer spurious respectability on prurient or fatuous articles by adding the phrase "What does this say about us?" to their titles.

Disturbingly, I find myself reading these articles even though I know I will be irritated by them. What does this say about me?

GILES BURGESS
London E8

Crackdown on sick stalkers

Sir: Earlier this year I found myself the victim of a hate-mail campaign and for four months I was besieged by an endless stream of sexually allusive and physically threatening material which was posted to my home, along with pornographic newspaper and magazine cuttings and a bag of unspeakable "gifts". My two young children were also threatened. Even the police were shocked at the ferocity of the attack.

I genuinely felt we were living in fear for our safety, if not our lives. I lost sleep and was forced to alter many plans in order to provide a constant level of vigilance in my home.

I truly believed this nightmare would cease when this pathetic and wicked woman was brought to justice. She pleaded guilty to five offences of sending obscene material through the post. I attended court as an observer only and was forced to listen to her eloquent solicitor give a heart-rending account of her client's impeccable character and lifelong devotion to good causes. The defendant was eventually fined a modest sum which she obligingly offered to pay off at £30 per month.

My only consolation is that the Stalking Bill will hopefully be rushed through Parliament ("Sweeping penalties in new law on stalkers", 6 December), and that it will enable the courts to deal realistically with these sick and perverted characters.

WENDY CALLAN
Oxford

Farsi, please

Sir: What promising news to hear that the Iranian *Majlis* has outlawed Western words (report, 4 December). We may have to tolerate the rule of the mullahs but perhaps they will now consider speaking our language, Farsi, and not the Arabic that has been creeping into common usage since the revolution of 1979.

No more "Allahu Akbar" over the airwaves, no more readings of the Arabic Koran and, best of all, no more of those Islamic titles that Iran's rulers so love to give themselves.

CHERRY MOSTESHAR
Oxford

Old-fashioned us

Sir: I cannot let Polly Toynbee's comments ("Just say No to this agonising aunt", 9 December) go unchallenged.

My wife and I met in 1962 and were married in church with all the appropriate promises in 1964. We did not "have sex" before our wedding, brought up two children of whom we are immensely proud, managed separate careers, and remain happily married to this day. Old-fashioned? Probably. Unusual or uncommon? Possibly. But I'm sorry Ms Toynbee, I will not accept "grotesque".

GEORGE BUCKLEY
Wallington, Surrey

Fizzy horrors

Sir: Having recently tasted a small selection of "alcopops" for the first time, I must applaud the Chancellor's decision to increase the duty on them. They are surely the most vile concoctions ever designed for retail sale.

M D WELLS
Pinner, Middlesex

analysis

Labour's Irish question mark

Tony Blair, who visits Belfast this week, has so far shown only a perfunctory interest in the Province's problems. David McKittrick charts Labour's less than consistent record on Northern Ireland

Prime Minister Harold Wilson inspects the troops in Ulster. Wilson's instincts were radical and British withdrawal was secretly considered

Hard-headed political operators in both the Unionist and nationalist camps say privately that what matters most to them about the next British general election is not who wins it, but the strength of the winning party's majority.

Unionists want a weak government reliant on Unionist support in the Commons; nationalists want a stronger administration with no need of Unionist assistance.

But the possibility of a Labour government means that Irish politicians are already flicking back through their legendarily compendious memory banks for indications on how a Blair-led government might perform. Labour policy on Ireland has see-sawed wildly over the decades, going through nationalist periods but also decidedly Unionist phases. In many ways it is a tale of radical instincts curbed by the exigencies of office.

There has been much change since Labour was last in power, but the fact is that many of the same factors and forces, and indeed some of the personalities, will be faced by Tony Blair and Marjorie Mowlam, who, everyone assumes, will be his Northern Ireland Secretary. New Labour will have to face the old Irish questions.

Mowlam has held the Northern Ireland brief for many years, but Blair has shown only the most perfunctory interest in Ireland. Their party has, though, gone through the same painful learning curve as everyone else in these islands, which means they will not approach the problems, as some of their predecessors did, in a state of almost complete ignorance.

Clement Attlee: leaned towards the Unionists

1949

The first occasion when a Labour government ever really came to grips with Ireland was almost half a century ago, in an episode which, though now part of history, offers a telling insight into the party's perspectives.

In 1949 the Dublin government unexpectedly announced that Ireland, though effectively independent for many years, would formally declare a republic and leave the Commonwealth. This huge constitutional change meant that the Attlee government needed new legislation to regularise Northern Ireland's position.

Up to that point the Labour government had exhibited what one of its junior ministers, the pro-nationalist Lord Longford, described as "a rather hazy benevolence" towards southern Ireland. This was very much a traditional Labour approach, for expatriate Irishmen and their descendants had played a significant role in the movement since its early days.

When it came to brass tacks, however, such sentiment went by the board. The government inserted a clause in the new bill laying down that Northern Ireland would remain in the UK so long as a majority in the Stormont parliament in Belfast wanted it.

Since Stormont had an inbuilt Unionist majority, nationalists protested that the clause ensured the partition of Ireland. But Attlee's Cabinet tended to lean towards the Unionists, largely because his deputy, Herbert Morrison, had been much impressed by the Stormont prime minister, Lord Brookeborough, and by Northern Ireland's role in the Second World War. Conversely, he and other ministers had been unimpressed by the South's wartime neutrality.

Against this background the Cabinet made its hard political judgements. The first of these concerned the reality of Protestant power, and a desire to avoid stirring up Protestant anger. The Cabinet discussed the 1912 period, when Unionists had armed themselves with German guns, forming the Ulster Volunteers and declaring themselves ready to use force to resist home rule.

The 1949 Cabinet minutes record Labour's conclusion: "Unless the people of Northern Ireland felt reasonably assured of the support of the people of this country, there might be a revival of the Ulster Volunteers and of other bodies intending to meet any threat of force by force; and this would bring nearer the danger of an outbreak of violence in Ireland."

The second issue was closer to home: that of the UK's wider strategic defence considerations. These were set out by the Cabinet secretary, Lord Normanbrook, who wrote that the South's move meant that keeping Northern Ireland within the UK had become "a matter of first-class strategic importance to this country". The issue was so vital, he argued, that even if Northern Ireland wanted to leave the UK it was unlikely any British government could allow it do to so.

The new bill in effect formulated a principle which is still a matter of everyday political argument: that Irish unity can only come about with the consent of a majority in Northern Ireland. What went by the board in 1949 was the issue which came back to haunt these islands 20 years later: the question of the fairness of the Stormont system.

When Longford protested that Catholics were being discriminated against he was heard out by the Cabinet, he recalls, with "chilly indifference". The young Michael Foot supported the bill but went on to call for a commission of inquiry into Stormont's "monstrously undemocratic methods."

But the minutes show that the Cabinet decided to keep its distance: "It was the general view of ministers that the UK government would be ill-advised to appear to be interesting themselves in this matter." Exactly two decades later, another Labour administration was in power when the civil rights issue spilled over into the streets and into violence.

Merlyn Rees face to face with Ian Paisley

1969

In the Sixties and Seventies, governments headed by Harold Wilson twice considered the idea of aiming for a united Ireland. They decided against such a course: and in doing so they demonstrated the continuity of the Irish issue, for they were influenced by much the same factors as the Attlee administration had been.

But Wilson, unlike Attlee, took a much closer interest in the issue of civil rights for Catholics. He supported and encouraged the reformist policies of the then Unionist prime minister, Terence O'Neill, expressing open hostility towards opponents of reform such as William Craig (an early mentor of present Unionist leader David Trimble) and the Rev Ian Paisley.

Wilson himself came under pressure to intervene more directly from a large number of Labour MPs, many of whom, such as Kevin McNamara, had Irish backgrounds and sympathies. Wilson was conscious of the large Irish presence in his own Liverpool constituency, remarking often that he had more Irish voters in his constituency than had many Dublin politicians.

His own instincts were radical, and the idea of pulling out of Northern Ireland was secretly considered, though rejected, before the August 1969 eruption of violence and deployment of British troops. Wilson was fully prepared to scrap Stormont if the Unionists did not hand over many of their security powers, but they agreed and their institution survived.

While the issue of civil rights assumed a new importance in 1969, some points remained practically unaltered by the passage of time. Like the Attlee Cabinet, Wilson's ministers worried about a revival of the Ulster Volunteers. According to Tony Benn's diaries, Defence Secretary Denis Healey warned the Cabinet that "although he had sympathy with the Catholics, he had to point out that if we had the majority of the population against us we should be once again in the 1911-14 situation."

Britain's strategic military interests also remained a consideration. One of Wilson's aides noted later: "There were and still are arguments for Britain not pulling out of Ireland. However, the only positive reason for staying in which really mattered in Whitehall was defence."

In opposition in the early 1970s, Wilson appalled Unionists. First, he openly espoused the aim of Irish unity; second, he secretly met the IRA at least twice, infuriating not only Unionists but also the Irish government, which took the view that he was, in effect, encouraging terrorists and undermining democratic politicians.

Unionists were therefore apprehensive when he returned to power in 1974. They were right to worry, since in strictest secrecy he established a Cabinet Office committee to review options which included British withdrawal and independence.

But within months the Unionists inflicted a decisive defeat on his government's authority by staging a general strike which brought down the power-sharing executive of the time. When Wilson referred to loyalists as "spongers", they responded by defiantly sporting pieces of sponge on their lapels.

Many, including Wilson, saw the success of the strike as the clearest possible indication of the Unionists' strength of numbers. It was, in effect, a stark demonstration of the Protestant power to which Attlee and Healey had accorded such wary respect.

His sights lowered from the aspirational to the managerial. Wilson and his hapless Northern Ireland Secretary, Merlyn Rees, afterwards presided over a policy still remembered for its confusion and lack of direction. Political talks got nowhere, and nor did further contacts with republicans. Amid the uncertainty the death toll rose.

Amid the confusion, Dublin minister Garret FitzGerald, worried that Wilson might opt for British withdrawal, lobbied Henry Kissinger, then US Secretary of State. He told Kissinger that Dublin might seek American assistance "in persuading Britain not to embark on a course of action that could be so fraught with dangers".

FitzGerald's fears, as he later acknowledged, were groundless. Far from pursuing Irish unity, the Callaghan administration of 1976-79 executed a dramatic change, transforming itself from the one-time champion of Catholic rights into, at least temporarily, the sponsor of Unionist interests.

Roy Mason, as Northern Ireland Secretary, revelled in the pro-consular trappings of the office, eschewing political initiatives in favour of a hard-line security policy. This involved extensive use of the SAS and police interrogation methods which earned condemnation from Amnesty International and others.

This approach was so popular with Unionists that years later the mention of Mason's name could still draw applause from an Ulster Unionist party audience.

The tough security policy was accompanied by concessions to Unionism at Westminster, where Callaghan's minority government needed Ulster Unionist support in the lobbies. That period is remembered – as these last days of the Major government will doubtless be – as one in which a prime minister put the survival of his administration above other considerations.

Callaghan paid the price, however, when his policies led the then leader of the SDLP, Gerry Fitt, to vote with the Conservatives in a no-confidence motion. "Labour policy since 1974 has been disastrous," Fitt said in an emotional, still-remembered Commons speech. "The Government has disregarded the minority and appeased the blackmailers of the Unionist majority." Fitt's vote – the first he cast against Labour in 14 years – helped bring down the last Labour government.

Mo Mowlam: Anglo-Irish approach

1997?

Out of office, Labour at first reverted to a more pro-nationalist line, in the early Eighties adopting a policy of pursuing Irish unity with Unionist consent. In the past few years, however, Blair has significantly softened this approach.

He first removed Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland spokesman who was identified with "old Labour" and known as a passionate Irish nationalist. His replacement, Marjorie Mowlam, and Blair himself have since made it clear that while the party is still technically committed to unity by consent it will not push Unionists in that direction.

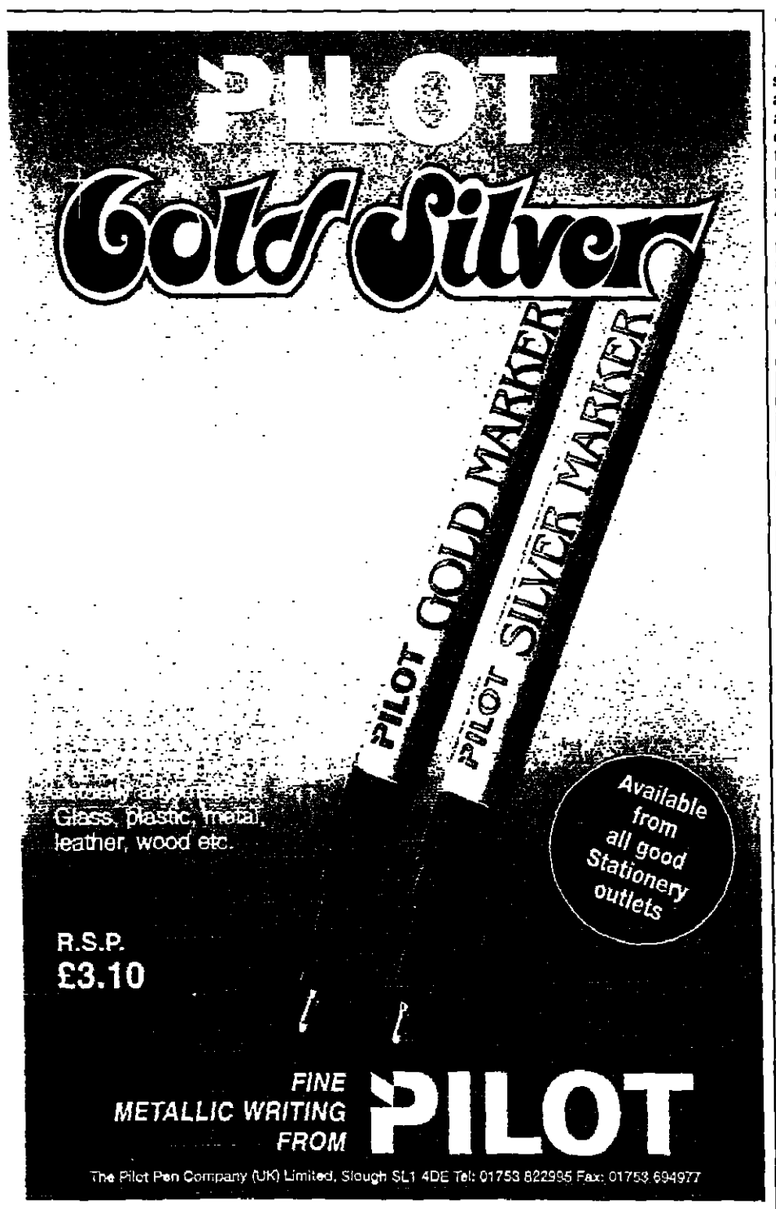
They will none the less place a high priority on an Anglo-Irish approach, involving the South in the administration of the North, and increasing London-Dublin co-operation. The Irish vote may no longer be a factor of note in British politics, but it has been replaced with the much stronger influence wielded today by Dublin.

This mild greenery is derived not so much from Labour's own instincts as from the general consensus (with the significant exception of the Unionists) that the political facts of life are Anglo-Irish. But many of the issues faced by his Labour predecessors will still be there. The defence issue may have dimmed, but the issue of the integrity of the UK will be on the Conservative agenda, and therefore on Labour's also.

And while the South's influence has grown, the reality of Unionism's strength of numbers is still evident. Only a few months ago the Drumcree episode, which amounted to a minor key rerun of the 1974 loyalist strike, provided a salutary reminder of the realpolitik of potential Protestant power.

Blair would bring to the post no strong instincts on Ireland, though his general approach suggests he would not favour any Wilson-style adventurism. His policies may be further circumscribed by the Tories, who in opposition might well opt for a stronger pro-union line.

But the most important determinant of Labour's approach, as it threads its way through the Irish minefield, may well be the size of its majority. A strong Blair government will have a tricky enough task in working towards peace and agreement; but a weak administration, dependent on Unionist support in the lobbies, would be something close to a nightmare for nationalists, and indeed for Blair himself.



Vote now for the Non-Personality of the Year

Miles Kington

There is still time to vote in our Non-Personality of 1996 competition! Yes, this is your chance to nominate the person who, in your opinion, has done most to lower the tone of 1996 and make it a duller, drearier year.

Just to remind you of the purpose of the contest – the whole idea is to counterbalance the vicious trend of things like the *Today* Programme Personality of the Year, BBC Sports Personality of the Year and so on, in which the winners generally have very little personality and haven't done very much. Typically, it tends to be an army officer who has got an Olympic silver medal in the bobsleigh, a member of the Royal Family who has got through the year without being divorced, someone who spent a year as a hostage in Beirut, etc.

But our Non-Personality of the Year has to be someone who genuinely seems to have no particular personality and has genuinely achieved nothing at all.

Past winners of the Non-Personality of the Year include Peter Mayle, "Doctor" Brian Mawhinney, Terry Waite, Noel Edmonds and Peter Mayle again.

This year, however, we are not naming any names. This is partly because we are scared of libel suits, and partly for fear Peter Mayle might win again. So, without any names or pack drill, here are our nominations for the title of Non-Personality of the Year, 1996!

• That chap who does the weather forecast without your being able to understand a word of what he is saying.

• The girl that Melvyn Bragg brings along to *Start The Week* because if he didn't there wouldn't be any female on the programme.

• That bright young presenter of that children's TV programme, you know the one.

• Any journalist who tries to turn *The Archers* into a news story.

• Anyone who has been sensationally fired from this Irish thing called *Riverdance* where they only move half their body, so presumably it would only be worth firing half of him anyway ...

• That bloke who comes up behind you at 90mph on the motorway and flashes his headlights if you won't get out of the way quick enough.

• Any director of Camelot.

• Anyone who tries to explain the windfall tax.

• The person at the BBC who persists in believing that the Budget speech is an effective piece of theatre.

• A footballer who is more famous for being sent off or missing a penalty than anything else.

• Anyone who is supposedly a model for a character in *Absolutely Fabulous*.

• The person who coined the meaningless word "supermodel".

• Any child of the late Robert Maxwell.

• That bloke who drives along the motorway in front of you in the middle or fast lane at a solid 50mph, no more, and won't move over, even when you flash your lights at him from behind.

• That woman you sit next to who spends the whole dinner party saying how good *Two Fat Ladies* is, and you finally say, "Yes, but why is it so good? What do they actually ever do except laugh, when nothing funny is happening or being said? What does it actually tell us about cooking, when everything is so obviously set up?" And the woman looks at you askance as if you are missing the point, and you suddenly realise that SHE will be nominating YOU for Non-Personality of 1996 ...

• The politician who has most often gone on the much-vaunted *Today* programme and then failed to answer the question.

• A disturbed youth who costs the local council £90,000 a week to give care to. Obviously we can't give his name for legal reasons, and equally obviously we wouldn't be lifting a finger to help him if we didn't have a legal obligation to do so.

• Anyone who still wears his baseball cap back to front.

• Anyone who is idiot enough to buy the new England football strip, or the new Manchester United one, or any of them ...

• Anyone who rings you up and says, "I'll tell you why I rang".

• Anyone who goes out and puts money on the much-vaunted *Today* programme's racing tips.

• The person at the BBC who dreamt up the slogan: "It's all for you on Radio 2".

• Any of the many people who ring me up and call me Mr Maynard and then try to sell me time-shares, double glazing, etc, whereas Mr Maynard is the name of my wife's first husband, which isn't the best or most tactful way of going about selling me time-shares, double gazing, etc ...

More nominations for Non-Personality of 1996 coming soon. Please feel free to nominate someone yourself!

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Labour may flinch from a new top tax

Donald Macintyre

The party has to confront the ghosts of 1992 – when its 'tax and spend' baggage was famously dumped

Luigi's in Covent Garden is a restaurant even more firmly embedded in political folklore than Chez Nico, scene of Ken Clarke's alleged indiscretions last week. It was there that Neil Kinnock, thinking aloud in January 1992 at dinner with journalists, floated the idea of "phasing in" the party's planned increases in national insurance contributions to limit their electoral damage. The story of the retreat hit most of the front pages. A furious John Smith confronted Kinnock, and the idea was swiftly dropped.

All that is well known. Less well known is that after the episode, a still smouldering John Smith went into the Commons smoking room and complained to several Labour MPs about Kinnock raising with journalists a proposal he had not agreed with his shadow Chancellor. The MPs clucked and nodded sympathetically; there was certainly justice in his complaint. But after Smith had left they took out ball-points and paper and worked out, for the first time, just what the planned increases in taxes and national contributions would mean for their own pay packets. And were suitably shocked. Suddenly the fears about tax that Neil Kinnock had been addressing at Luigi's didn't seem so absurd. And they seemed even less so when Labour went down to its fourth successive defeat less than three months later.

The incident serves only to underline how decisive a turning point 1992 was for Labour on tax. Once Smith was leader, almost his first act was to allow Gordon Brown to set about dumping the party's tax and spend baggage with awe-inspiring ruthlessness. In January 1992 the Tories' "tax bombshell" advertising campaign had been clinically effective because it was (loosely) based on a truth. So long as Blair was the leader and Brown the shadow Chancellor, that would never again be so. And they were right: the big lesson of the previous decade had been that Anglo-Saxon electorates, no longer trusting politicians to spend wisely or well, had drawn a line: no new money.

But now the party has to confront the ghosts of 1992 one last time. The biggest (or if not the biggest, then certainly the most potently symbolic) decision it has to take before the general election is whether to increase to 50 per cent the top rate of tax for those earning more than £100,000 a year. The party is committed to announcing any changes to income tax rates before polling day, and will do so in late January or early February.

The case is powerful. It would not raise much more than £1bn. But it would also affect only 0.5 per cent of the population. A new 50 per cent rate would still be significantly less than the 60 per cent that the country's highest earners rubbed along with for eight years under Margaret Thatcher. It would sharpen the credibility of Labour's claim to be the party of the many and not the few. It's absurd, as some have suggested, to argue that New Labour will be failing its last big test if it yields to the temptation to impose a new higher rate. A new higher rate would conform fully to one of the party's principles, that of progressive taxation. And, finally, it would make it easier to pay for a first step towards the party's stated long-term goal of imposing a new lower rate of 10 or 15 per cent. The Institute of Fiscal Studies' data suggest that if it were spent in that way you could tax the first £500 of taxable income at 10 per cent, or the first £1,000 at 15 per cent.

There isn't a raging argument about this; when two people see as much of each other as Brown and Blair it just isn't like that. But, broadly, Brown has been rehearsing the case for an increase. And Blair has yet to be convinced. No one has been braver than Brown in attracting traditionalist flak for modernising Labour's economic policy. But the case is not a weak one. And for once Brown's chancellorial instincts for sound finance sit easily with an idea which would be congenial to the old left. (not to mention the old Labour right)

Strong, but not irresistible. Most of the arguments against are electoral; but in the widest sense. The Tories are known to be preparing a £10m press and poster advertising campaign from the New Year. They would almost certainly like a central theme to be tax – but there are several problems. One is their own tax-raising record since 1992. The other is that Labour has not committed itself to raising a single tax. A top rate hike, so the counter-argument goes, could give them just the opportunity they so far lack. Where will it stop, the Tories will scream. £100,000 today, £50,000 tomorrow? Some Labour politicians doubt whether rich earners with inventive accountants would anyway yield even as much as the advertised £1bn plus. Much more important, so the opponents say, is the threat that the remarkable reverse in the positions of the two parties on tax would be jeopardised.

But there is another point: income tax is not the only progressive weapon in a chancellor's armoury. Particularly in a Labour government prepared to be serious about welfare reform – and reducing some of the universal benefits paid to the better off. It would be surprising, for example, if Labour went into the next election ruling out an end to child benefit for higher rate taxpayers. This matters because Labour will probably have to rule out a new top rate if it doesn't rule it in. Otherwise, it risks all the electoral pain of imposing the tax without the advantages of actually doing so. No decision has been taken. But my sense is that the forces are gathering rapidly against a new top rate.

Nothing to fear from techno-corn

by Nicholas Schoon

Genetic engineers have encountered apathy and uninformed hostility from the public

Within the next 20 years something, somewhere, is going to go badly wrong with genetic engineering. A man-made species of bacterium, virus, plant or animal will take on an uncontrollable life of its own and cause havoc. Grave economic damage will be done, and dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people will be killed.

There will be an outcry followed by a succession of inquests, public inquiries, perhaps even a Royal Commission. Politicians and the press will demand ministerial resignations and the multiple warnings made in the Seventies and Eighties about the inherent dangers in the new technology of swapping genes between unrelated species will be dug up and triumphantly flourished with cries of "You were warned."

People will recall the mad cow epidemic, which killed several hundred (it could be several thousand) people – most of them Britons – between 1995 and 2015. They will recite the old, old wisdom, that to go against nature is to invite calamity. Just as feeding the ground-up remains of dead cattle to live cattle was weird, wrong, asking for trouble, so too is shifting a gene which evolved in a bacterium or a plant into an animal – or vice versa.

They may recall a speech of King Charles, made when he was still Prince of Wales, to organic farmers in September 1996. "I believe we have now reached a moral and ethical watershed," he said. "What actual right do we have to experiment, Frankenstein-like, with the very stuff of life?"

But after a few weeks or months the fuss will die away. Why? Because society will quietly, grudgingly, accept that genetic engineering has become indispensable and that the benefits this technology has brought vastly outweigh the damages it has wrought.

By 2016 a vast range of gene therapies, drugs, industrial chemicals, food additives, crop plants and farm animals will be produced using this technology. The global turnover of these industries will have run into trillions of pounds and they will have saved or extended millions of human lives.

Genetic engineering was invented a quarter-century ago, mainly by US geneticists and biochemists. They developed a toolkit of enzymes and techniques for snipping DNA, the extraordinarily long hereditary molecule shared by virtually all life forms, in a predictable, repeatable way. They found out how to move fragments of DNA carrying entire genes between different kinds of bacteria and viruses.

The mind-boggling implications of this were instantly recognised. Mankind could take a selected attribute from one creature and transfer it to a completely unrelated one. Thus a bacterium could be made to make insulin, the indispensable human hormone which diabetics lack.

The dangers were also recognised at the time. What if a man-made organism also acquired a destructive attribute and was able to flourish, out of control? These fears led to a brief moratorium on genetic engineering research in the mid-Seventies.

Having satisfied themselves and governments that these fears were exaggerated, the researchers continued, aided by a flood of stock-market money pouring into the new genetic engineering firms. But making the new technology work turned out to be much harder than had been hoped.

Even the simplest bacterium is an extraordinarily complex machine. Persuading it to take in an alien gene from an unrelated species and incorporate it so that it was passed on from generation to generation was hard enough. Getting it to express that gene vigorously – using it to make copious quantities of the enzyme or hormone which the gene "coded" for and was the desired end product, was harder still.

Those difficulties caused delays and disillusion with the development of genetic engineering in the Eighties. Now, however, the new technology is rushing into our lives. There are dozens of products from medicine, agriculture and industry which rely on GMOs – genetically modified organisms. Already a variety of common food additives (vitamins, amino acids) across the Western world are made using GMOs.

And Europe is about to receive much more GMO food. For the United States, the country which has done most to develop the technology and debate its application, has decided to allow GMO varieties of two of its most important crops, sweet corn and soya, to be grown in large quantities for the first time this year. They have already been harvested, mixed with the ordinary kind of grain and bean and exported.

The European Union has licensed use of this soya, which has been modified to make it resistant to a weedkiller. It has not yet given approval to the genetically modified sweet corn, which belongs to the Swiss drugs and chemicals giant CIBA, even though it has now reached Europe.

Corn and soya are used in a variety of processed foods and the US is the biggest exporter of these crops – so very soon products with some GMO content will be splattered all over the supermarket shelves. Free trade and the American decision to embrace the new technology have made a mockery of the intention of Britain's supermarkets to label all foods containing GMOs because that is what their customers wanted.

Were they to stick with that policy, they would soon either have to label a huge variety of products or begin "negative labelling". That means sourcing products which have no GMO content, and declaring them as such. Because such products will soon be minority items, they will also become more expensive.

The large number of geneticists who have wanted the maximum of public information and debate about the appliance of their new science find this deeply frustrating. For years they have been trying to make the public and the press take an interest in genetic engineering, battling against the fact that you really need to understand molecular genetics to at least A-level standard to grapple with it.

There have been several symposia and exercises aimed at making ordinary people judge the new technology on an informed basis. But mostly the scientists and a handful of policy makers have encountered apathy and uninformed hostility from the public and press alike. And now, abruptly, genetic engineering has arrived in our midst *en masse*.

It sounds, and is, a regrettable state of affairs. But we ought to be optimistic about the abilities of our societies to handle new technologies. By and large, we embrace them only if the benefits outweigh the costs – and we also try, continuously, to reduce those costs. Think of the car as an example.

If a technology turns out to be a loser, we are also capable of rejecting it. Think of nuclear power, which is in retreat across most of the world despite decades of backing from the most powerful organisations in the world, the governments of nation states.

Genetic engineering will bring mishaps and stupidities in its wake. But, overall, it's highly likely to be a good thing, for which the benefits handsomely outweigh the risks. Enjoy the corn. Enjoy the beans. They may have been snuck in on us, but they'll still make a wholesome meal.

Driven mad by racial abuse?

Peter Victor

Horrett Campbell, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, set about a group of toddlers with a 2ft machete. He thought he heard their voices taunting him, calling him 'nigger'

Long before Horrett Campbell was arrested, long before his description or picture was circulated, I guessed he would be black, Afro-Caribbean, not much different from me.

Campbell set about a group of toddlers with a 2ft machete because he thought they were "little devils". He heard their voices taunting him, calling him "nigger". Christopher Clunis, known to be mentally ill, also heard voices taunting him with racist jibes. He stabbed Jonathan Zito to death in an underground station.

Last year, Stephen Laudat, a known paranoid schizophrenic released into the community without any medication, stabbed Bryan Bennett 82 times because he believed that he was was Ronnie Kray. An independent inquiry into the killing concluded that racial prejudice and poor co-operation between doctors and social workers helped turn Laudat, 26, into a violent killer.

All three were black men, tormented by real or imagined racism. In each case the authorities, through ignorance or prejudice, failed to give them appropriate treatment, and innocent people were hurt or killed.

Since the 1970s studies have shown that a disproportionate number of black people, men particularly, undergo treatment for mental illness: schizophrenia and psychosis rather than depression. Research by Professor Glynn Harrison, of the University of Nottingham, revealed last year that immigrants with Afro-Caribbean backgrounds are five times more likely to develop schizophrenia than other population groups, more than other immigrant groups, and more than if they had stayed in the Caribbean.

Before the Government began closing our mental hospitals, those black immigrants admitted to them were five times more likely to be diagnosed as schizophrenic than UK-born first admissions. People born in Britain to Afro-Caribbean parents were three times as likely to be admitted to hospital as diagnosed schizophrenics as other black people and 12 times more likely than white Britons.

So, do Afro-Caribbeans living in Britain have a genetic predisposition to mental illness or is there some other explanation? A number of theories have emerged in recent years.

First, there is the role of the police. Many more Afro-Caribbeans have been "sectioned" (locked up) under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act as a result of contact with the police than after referral by doctors. In 1983 Mind, the mental health charity, completed a three-year study which found a disproportionate number of Afro-Caribbeans among police referrals and criticised the police for "inherent racism".

Institutional racism in British society was suggested as a contributory factor by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth Calman, in 1992 when he carried out a study that found schizophrenia was three to six times more common among Afro-Caribbeans living in England than among those in Jamaica. His subsequent report suggested that the mental illness may be triggered by stress caused by racism and unemployment.

Finally, there are suggestions that black people have been misdiagnosed as mentally ill because their behaviour is radically different to their white counterparts. Explosive displays of extreme emotion such as anger or distress, common to black culture but alien to white doctors and social workers, lead to confused signals.

For whatever reason, black people are disproportionately likely to come into the care of the mental health services. Once there, like Stephen Laudat and Christopher Clunis, they are unlikely to be well served.

Research into psychiatric treatment suggests that black people have been given harsher medication than equivalent white groups. In the mid-1980s, it was found that Afro-Caribbeans were more likely to receive powerful drug treatment in secure facilities, and they were more likely to be given electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

Orville Blackwood, 31, died in Broadmoor Hospital in 1991 after he was injected with tranquillisers. An inquiry report by Professor Herschel Prins, of the Midlands Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice at Loughborough University, concluded: "There is racism in Broadmoor Hospital. It is not on the whole deliberate or necessarily conscious, although there was some evidence of direct racism." The report notes that when the inquiry team first visited Broadmoor Hospital two months after Blackwood's death, his "name on the patients' list of the occupational therapy office wall was crossed through with 'RIP' annotated against it, and nearby a copy of a magazine cartoon of Orville the Duck was still visible".

Dr Veena Soni Raleigh, author of the Mental Health Foundation's most recent report (published last year), says: "There is overwhelming evidence that African-Caribbean people are subject to greater coercive control by both the psychiatric and criminal justice systems. It is widely believed that community and primary health-care services often fail to provide African-Caribbean people with the preventive and supportive care needed at an early stage to prevent the development of a crisis in mental health."

The common thread that runs through disproportionate sectioning by the police, misdiagnosis by health workers, and mistreatment of black mental patients is racism. Not the risible spectacle of skinheads marching through London's East End, but the hard, unspeakable reality that in Britain a black life is worth less than that of others, or is even worthless.

Blacks exercise little economic power, and almost no political power. They are disproportionately unemployed, low paid, from fragmented families. The Labour Party takes the black vote for granted, the Tories and Liberals can't be bothered to chase it.

Consequently, who cares if blacks are given inappropriate medication, mistreated or abused in care? Why worry about sectioning them, locking them up, whether they are "nutters" or not?

My life could not have been more different from Horrett Campbell's: I come from a stable, nurturing home, and had a better education than many of my peers. I have a career, a wonderful wife, a beautiful daughter, good friends. And yet a thousand tiny sleights, daily reminders of my "worthless" status, gnaw at me until I seethe with silent, suppressed rage.

Should I be troubled by women clutching their handbags as I pass by, bar staff ignoring me until white people have been served, receptionists assuming I am a delivery boy, patronising fools telling me, "You should be working for the *Guardian*, man"? Or am I being too sensitive, are these things really happening? Where does awareness end and paranoia begin? Without the comforts and privileges I enjoy, would I even now be in a secure mental home? Or would I be heading for a local school, clutching a machete, like Horrett Campbell?

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Broker deals £200m blow to RJB shares

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer, was dealt a crushing blow by its own stockbroker yesterday after a profits downgrade from BZW caused a 23 per cent fall in its share price. The sharp fall, in unusually heavy trading, wiped £200m from RJB's market capitalisation, slashing the value of its 9,000 worker-shareholders' stakes.

BZW's research report focused attention on RJB's ability to compete with cheaper overseas imports of coal in the wake of sterling's rapid recent appreciation. BZW reined in its profits forecast for the current year from £196m to £185m and next year from £232m to £192m. The two-year shortfall of £50m pushed the shares 112.5p lower to 372.5p.

That compares with the 551p at which chief executive Richard Budge sold 400,000 shares, netting more than £2m, as part of a £95m share buyback in July. That bonanza came on top of a more than 60 per cent rise in his salary to £666,000.

Further evidence was provided a month ago that RJB's directors felt the shares were fully priced when four of them exercised share options granted at 250p and immediately sold in the market at 555p.

There was heavy trading yesterday of almost 5 million shares. This was understood to have been caused by institutions, which had been brought into the stock by BZW in 1994 when RJB acquired most of British Coal's assets, taking fright at the house broker's first apparent change of stance on the stock.

A spokesman for the company insisted that the forecast reduction only brought BZW into line with the market consensus. BZW, he said, remained a buyer of the stock.

The collapse in RJB's share price is the latest twist in a controversial period since it took what was seen as a huge gamble in buying what remained of the British coal mining industry.

At the time of the £815m acquisition, sceptics said RJB's ebullient Mr Budge had overpaid for the mines. Later, when he repaid loans used to finance the deal in a third of the projected time, the Labour party used the company's apparent financial success to suggest the industry had been sold off on the cheap.

Disagreement over the company's prospects remains heated. Charles Kernot, an analyst at Paribas Capital Markets and a seller of the stock since it peaked at 625p in May, said the fall yesterday vindicated his stance.

He maintains that the market is only just beginning to appreciate the pressures facing RJB once fixed price contracts set up by the Government prior to the sale of the power generators run out in April 1998. He believes those generators are unwilling to sign up to contracts after that date at the price of 125p a gigajoule RJB is trying to negotiate.

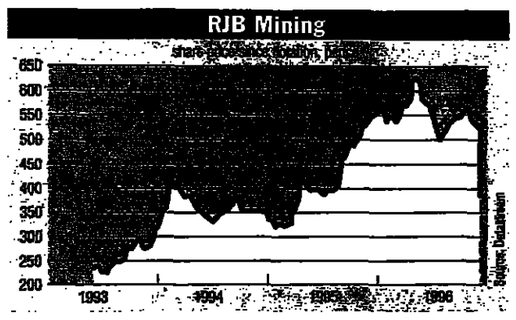
Other pressures on RJB include increasing competition in the domestic electricity market starting in 1998, which will push down generators' earnings and encourage them to squeeze their own costs, including fuel. Environmental pressures are also encouraging the use of gas rather than coal.

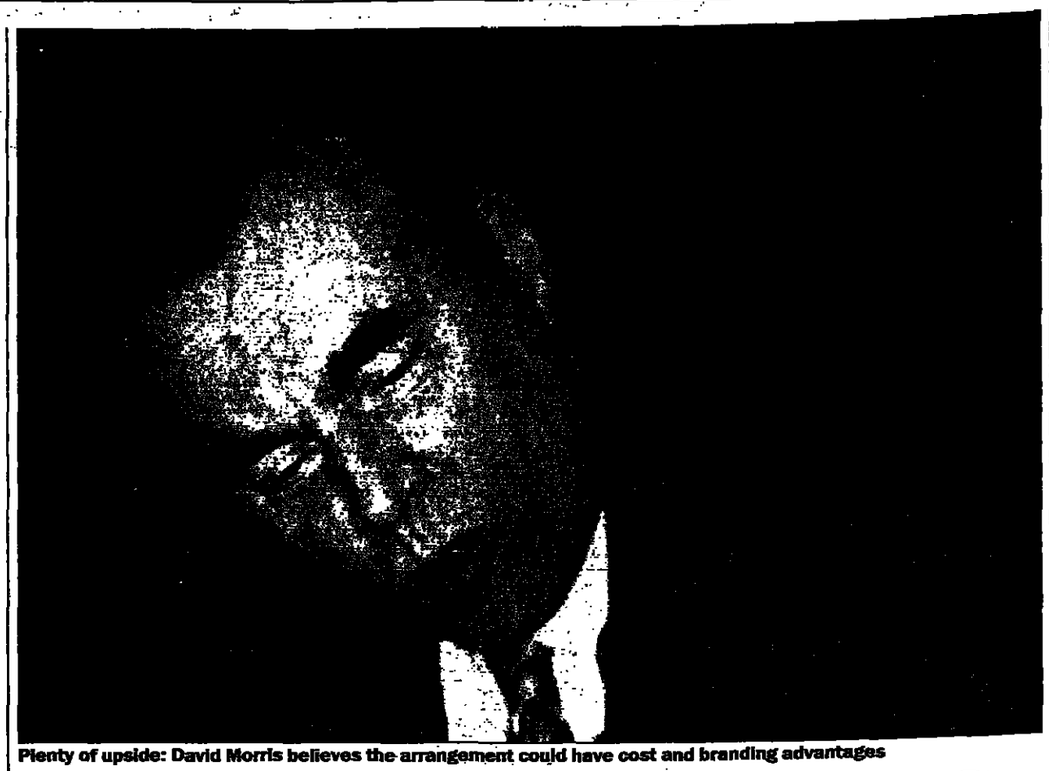
Estimates of coal demand after 1998 differ wildly. Richard Budge has forecast a need for 51 million tonnes of coal a year, while Oxera, the economic analysts, put demand as low as 15 million tonnes.

Finally, although RJB has reduced its cost of production sharply, it still faces stiff competition from large open-cast mines in north and south America, against which its deep shaft mines, even sited near the power stations they serve, find it hard to compete.

The cost of producing coal in Britain has been cut from about £33 a tonne in 1993 to £30 or less now, but the generators are pressing for even lower prices that would compete with the spot price of marginal volumes of imported coal.

In September RJB announced a 2.5p leap in its interim dividend to 8p after reporting flat profits of £86.1m (£85.5m).





Plenty of upside: David Morris believes the arrangement could have cost and branding advantages

Northern confirms REC talks to thwart US suitor

Magnus Grimond

Northern Electric yesterday confirmed it was in talks to merge its electricity and gas supply business with that of another regional electricity company as it rolled out its defence against the £920m bid from CalEnergy of the US.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne based group said it would raise next year's dividend by 17 per cent to 50p and by 7 per cent a year thereafter until the next regulatory review in the year 2000. The dividend policy would not be derailed by a windfall tax imposed by a Labour government of up to £81m, the company promised.

David Morris, the Northern chairman, refused to identify its partner in the talks, which have been going on for the past year, but said it "may well" not be nearby Northern's operations. Cost savings of £28m a year are forecast by the time the joint venture is fully operational in the year 2000, for an outlay of around £25m.

"We felt and believe there is an upside in operating on a joint basis", Mr Morris said. "It will bring cost advantages and we think branding advantages. We shall in addition have alliances with other parties, almost certainly new entrants to this market." As well as United Friendly, the insurance group which recently announced an innovative personal equity plan linked to bills, he said other groups such as retailers and possibly even a newspaper may be involved in the partnership.

Suggestions by analysts and industry sources that Norweb, the electricity arm of United Utilities, may be the other REC involved were discounted by sources close to the talks. The company made no comment yesterday. London Electricity, which was also non-committal, was suggested as another candidate, having recently moved its telephone and billing operations to Sunderland.

Northern is claiming the support of the Prudential, which has a 13 per cent stake, after the insurance group said the bid offered an insufficient premium for control. Northern's shares rose 6p to 611.5p, still well short of the 650p a share bid from CE Electric, the CalEnergy and Peter Kiewit bid vehicle. Many analysts are expecting the bid to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the next few days and East Midlands Electricity said it would postpone Monday's scheduled results announcement until the Government makes up its mind.

Yorkshire Electricity yesterday reported interim pre-tax profits down from £111m to £80.8m as a result of last year's regulatory price review. Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, said the 13 per cent cut in prices forced on the group from April by Offer, the industry regulator, had lopped £40m off the group's revenues.

The new price controls were prompted by the group's decision to make payouts worth around 500p a share as the main plank of its successful defence against a takeover bid from Trafalgar House. Yorkshire yesterday raised the interim dividend to 15.8p and hinted it was looking at other ways of returning value to shareholders, which analysts expected to involve a share buy-back.

Barclays deal with Morgan 'risks 600 jobs'

Jill Treanor
Banking Correspondent

More than 600 jobs are at risk as a result of Barclays' decision to sell part of its global custody service to Morgan Stanley, banking unions warned yesterday.

The fears were voiced as Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance group, said it was cutting 350 jobs as part of a restructuring of its area and branch network after the £48m acquisition of Legal & General's commercial insurance operations in July.

Bifu, the banking union, attacked the insurance job losses as "arbitrary" and claimed the Barclays' job cuts would be a "devastating blow" to Trowbridge, the Wiltshire town where much of Barclays' custody business is placed.

Unifi, which represents three-quarters of Barclays' staff, said only 67 people involved in "front-end" relationship and client services departments were to be transferred to Morgan Stanley as part of the deal announced yesterday.

Many of these will have to relocate from Trowbridge to Morgan Stanley's London office at Canary Wharf, Unifi said.

The price of the deal, which has been the subject of much speculation in recent months, was not disclosed although Barclays said it would have "no material effect" on its accounts.

The transaction involves approximately $250bn of the assets currently administered by Barclays Global Securities Services. The combined global custody assets of the two businesses are expected to reach approximately $390bn, making it one of the largest in the world.

Under the terms of the deal Barclays will provide sub-custodial services to Morgan Stanley for 18 months after the deal is completed in the second quarter of 1997.

"This means the sub-custodial staff may only be required until the third quarter of 1998," Unifi said.

A spokeswoman for Barclays said the bank was hopeful of transferring staff to other positions.

"Our aim is to avoid redundancies, although there may well be job losses over after two years," the Barclays spokeswoman said.

Jim Lowe, assistant secretary to Bifu, said he was pressing for a series of measures to be introduced at Trowbridge, from where Barclays has already transferred another part of its custody operation to Peterborough.

US deficit reaches record $48bn

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

America's balance of payments was in the red by a record amount in the third quarter. Yet financial markets were unruffled. Although the dollar dipped briefly, Wall Street climbed in morning trading and Treasury bond prices barely fell.

The deficit on trade in goods and services and investment income widened to $47.96bn from $40.21bn in the second quarter. This earlier figure was revised up by more than $1bn from the initial estimate. The shortfall on trade in goods alone jumped to $51.59bn from $46.99bn, putting a figure on recent anecdotal evidence from exporters that the strength of the dollar has hurt their overseas sales.

Yesterday's figures also showed that net foreign investment in US Treasury bonds reached a record $42bn during the quarter, while overseas purchases of other securities rose to $33bn. Purchases of US assets by foreigners climbed more than American purchases of overseas assets. Although this underlined the potential vulnerability of US share prices, the Dow Jones index passed the 6,500 level by mid-morning with a 37-point rise. The FTSE 100 index in London closed more than 24 points up at 4,035.7 in very quiet trading.

The pound's index against a range of other currencies was unchanged at 93.2 yesterday evening, reflecting the majority view that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, will leave interest rates unchanged after his meeting this morning with the Governor of the Bank of England.

Eddie George has said base rates will need to rise in time, but comments last week reassured the City that he would not push Mr Clarke too hard before Christmas.

The Chartered Institute of Marketing yesterday urged Mr Clarke to raise interest rates again to ensure the economy does not return to the roller-coaster ride of the 1980s.

The CIM said the Government needed to take "pre-emptive action".

Costain coal fetches just £28m

Patrick Tooher

Costain, the troubled international engineering and construction group, last night announced the long-awaited sale of its US mining business for a fraction of the hoped-for price and issued a profits warning as it revealed that Alan Lovell had resigned as chief executive.

The company said it was selling US Coal to Rencoal, an American mining group for £28.6m. Analysts had expected up to £50m from the sale, but Costain said US Coal would report losses £11m worse than expected because of "production difficulties" caused by "adverse geological conditions" in September and October. Losses in the Middle East construction business will also be £4m more than forecast, Costain warned.

Costain is also raising £23.4m from the sale of its one-third interest in the Spitalfields development in London to Metacorp, a Malaysian group 23 per cent owned by Intria, owner of a 40 per cent stake in Costain.

Mr Lovell said he was stepping down following the final disposals of non-core assets: "However, in order to ensure a smooth transition, I have agreed to stay with the group until my successor has been appointed." In another boardroom change, Sir Christopher Benson will be replaced as chairman by Firdaus bin Shafii, currently joint deputy chairman.

Last month shares in Costain were suspended pending clarification of the group's financial position and further details about asset disposals. Trading in the shares is unlikely to resume until the end of the month.

Large opposes watchdog reform

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, has hit back at other City regulators who have been backing a radical reform of the financial policing system.

It emerged yesterday that Sir Andrew has dismissed proposals for change backed by the chief executives of the Securities and Futures Authority and the Personal Investment Authority, calling the ideas they favour "disruptive and time-consuming".

Richard Farrant, chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority, and Colette Bowe, his counterpart at the Personal Investment Authority, have both publicly supported a shake-up in which regulation is split along functional lines between a body responsible for the health of financial institutions and a second organisation devoted to financial consumer protection.

One version of the reforms, put forward by Michael Taylor, an academic and a former employee of the Bank of England, has become known as the "Twin Peaks" system, with two specialist regulators reporting separately to the Government.

After deliberately keeping a low profile in the argument until recently, Sir Andrew said in a speech in Rome at the weekend that he was sceptical about a switch to a functional system, because there would be no guarantee that it would be better than the existing one.

He did not dispute it would work but said: "There is a guarantee that it will be extremely disruptive and time-consuming to practitioners and public alike in getting there."

Sir Andrew, who is expected to have his contract at SIB renewed shortly, said evolution was far cheaper than revolution. SIB was working hard to improve co-ordination between the various regulatory bodies under its control, as an alternative to switching to a functional system.

Sir Andrew believes a neat division between wholesale and retail regulation is not possible because so many firms are involved in both.

His comments echo remarks recently by Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England, who said that while there was scope for consolidation among the regulators a substantial change would be too disruptive to be worthwhile.

There have also been hints from Labour that it could take several years for its own proposed regulatory reforms to reach the statute book.

One source said the debate has become highly polarised and was causing a split between senior regulators and their own staff.

Under Labour Party plans junior regulators would be rolled up into the SIB so their chief executives would lose their independent roles, a threat which has provoked the rash of counter-proposals, which would involve dismantling and rebuilding the system.

Disruptive: Sir Andrew says change is time-consuming

Premiership strugglers to seek listings

Patrick Tooher

Sunderland and Southampton yesterday became the latest football clubs to sign up for a stock market listing, but the pair of Premiership strugglers will command vastly different price tags.

Southampton, languishing third from bottom, is merging with Secure Retirement, a quoted property development and healthcare company, which began life providing sheltered housing for the elderly.

The reverse takeover, which gives Southampton a full Stock Exchange listing, values the south coast club at slightly more than £10m.

That is significantly lower than the £47.4m Sunderland, 15th in the Premier League, is valued at under the terms of a placing and offer of shares at 585p. Fans will have to pay at least £585 to become shareholders.

Guy Askham, chairman of Southampton, said the difference in valuation was partly due to the more conservative treatment his club used when accounting for players' transfer fees.

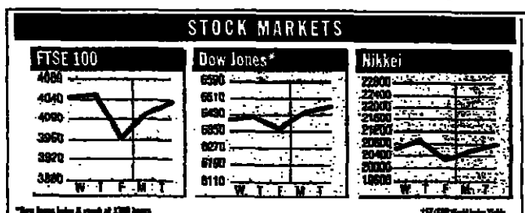
The reverse takeover will see Secure relisted as Southampton Leisure Holdings and provide the football club with instant access to about £6m of fresh capital. "Secure is bringing to the table cash, assets, access to stock market funds and proven business skills," said Mr Askham. "We have great ambitions for this club and this deal will play a very important part in achieving them."

Mr Askham declined to say if the new money would be spent on boosting manager Graeme Souness's squad. But he confirmed plans for Southampton to relocate from their home at The Dell to a 73-acre site to the north of the city that will include a leisure complex. The complex could cost up to £40m to build and is unlikely to be ready before the turn of the century.

Outside London, Southampton is the only Premier League club south of Birmingham and the only top-flight team in the Meridian television area. It has spent the last 18 years in the top flight, but has fought an almost annual battle against relegation.

Sunderland is also in the process of moving ground, though it plans to use the proceeds from the float, expected to be around £10.7m, to improve the club's finances and release extra money for manager Peter Reid to make some big-name signings. Of the 2.05 million new shares Sunderland is issuing, 16 per cent will be available to employees and the public. Dealings are expected to begin on Christmas Eve.

STOCK MARKETS

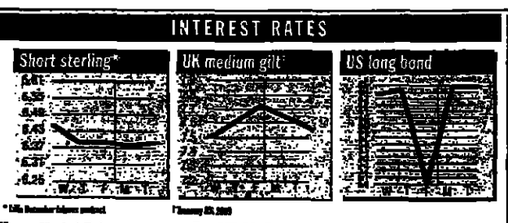


Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4035.70	+24.10	+0.6	4073.10	3632.30	3.95
FTSE 250	4411.90	+26.90	+0.6	4568.60	4015.30	3.57
FTSE 350	2003.90	+12.10	+0.6	2022.10	1816.60	3.87
FTSE SmallCap	2144.88	+7.44	+0.3	2244.36	1954.06	3.22
FTSE All-Share	1974.62	+11.49	+0.6	1994.54	1791.95	3.82
New York *	6491.52	+27.58	+0.4	6547.79	5032.94	2.05
Tokyo	20822.12	+218.41	+1.1	22666.80	19734.70	0.78†
Hong Kong	13342.46	+198.23	+1.5	13530.95	10204.87	3.13†
Frankfurt	2891.00	+33.76	+1.2	2909.91	2253.36	1.60†

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates

Index	1 Month	1 Year
UK	6.06	6.81
US	5.69	5.69
Japan	0.31	0.47
Germany	3.28	3.25

Bond Yields *

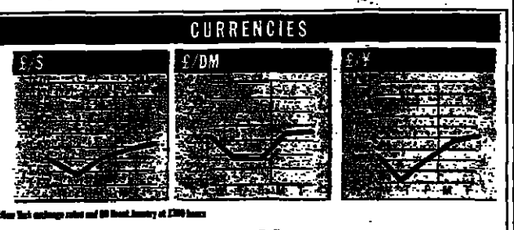
Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
7.49	7.44	7.56	7.60
6.21	5.73	6.48	6.05
2.43	1.29	-	-
5.77	6.11	6.67	6.89

*Benchmark indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change(%)	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Bezzar Homes	181	11.5	6.8	RJB Mining	372.5	112.5	23.2
Somerfield	162.5	7.5	4.8	Sage Group	501	17.5	3.4
Wilson(C) Hldgs	154.5	6	4.0	Chubb Security	321	9.5	2.9

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.6474	+0.57c	1.5314
$ (N York)‡	1.6475	-2.60c	1.5335
DM (London)	2.5644	+3.56pf	2.2183
¥ (London)	186.683	+Y1.647	155.90
£ Index	93.0	+1.0	82.8

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.6070	-0.74	0.6530
£ (N York)‡	0.6070	+0.94	0.6521
DM (London)	1.5566	+1.62pf	1.4485
¥ (London)	113.320	+Y0.61	101.81
$ Index	98.1	+0.1	94.4

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago		Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Rlse
Oil Brent $	23.92	-0.53	17.63	RPI	153.8	+2.7pc	149.7	12 Dec
Gold $	366.60	-0.20	388.50	GDP	108.9	+2.3pc	105.7	Jan 27
Gold £	223.16	-0.70	253.09	Base Rates	—	6.00pc	6.75	—

COMMENT

Too late for Lang to cut off electricity mergers

Poor little Northern Electric. The spirited defence it launched yesterday against its US assailant seems unlikely to do the trick, even though the shares promise to pay out 20 per cent of their value next year with 10 per cent a year promised thereafter. Northern's largest shareholder, the Pru, seems prepared to give it a whirl, but with Labour now fully committed to a much harsher regulatory regime on top of the windfall profits tax, most shareholders are going to just take their 650p a share and run.

Northern's only hope now is of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, stepping in to stop the bid, but even this looks a forlorn one. True, mergers policy under Mr Lang has not been operated on a consistent basis, but even he would be hard pressed to justify the somersault he'd have to perform to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the latest two American bids for regional electricity companies.

About the only basis he'd have for such action against this and the coincidental American bid for East Midlands Electricity is the loss of comparitors it would involve for Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. When there were 12 separately quoted recs to compare, this hardly seemed to matter but now we are down to just five it becomes more of an issue. On this logic the two latest bids would be referred as an act of conservation.

Even so, there are few genuine competition issues involved here, nor in truth are these companies such an obviously important part of our national heritage that they need preserving. Having allowed the slaughter to persist largely unchecked thus far, it would ill become Mr Lang to call a halt now. David Morris, chairman, is going to have to go down fighting after all but it's not a bad epitaph that he can attach to his name. He has a small place in history as the man who demonstrated with his scorched earth defence against Trafalgar House quite how much value there really was within these extraordinary companies, causing a rethink of regulatory policy in the process.

Murdoch's rivals need concrete proposals

The digital TV revolution is spawning a whole new army of instant experts on so called "conditional access", the obligation being placed on Rupert Murdoch to make his digital set box technology available to rival broadcasters. How many of these people – consultants, advisers, lawyers, regulators, technicians, politicians and journalists – really understand what they are talking about is a moot point but on one thing everyone is agreed; what happens over the next year is critically important in determining the future in this country certainly of pay TV if not broadcast TV more generally.

Today brings another flurry of submissions to the interminable consultation process on these issues. Despite the fact that any question of forcing Mr Murdoch to license his technology to rivals has already been ruled out, no-one seems to have altered their position very much. ITV still insists that broadcasters must be allowed to distribute their own smart cards and manage their own subscribers; Mr Murdoch's technology should be made to accommodate these needs, ITV says. The BBC goes further; what it wants is a "dual standard box" with its own slot for BBC smart cards and its own chip for BBC interactive services. Quite what the difference is between this position and the one the Government has already ruled out is anyone's guess.

The man charged with steering a course through this minefield is Don Cruickshank, director general of Oftel. The idea is that he should regulate conditional access for digital pay TV in much the same way as he does now for the telecoms industry, where part of his job is to ensure that rival telecoms companies get access to BT's network on fair, non-discriminatory and equal terms. That's what the Government wants to do with the Murdoch digital pay TV system. When you think about it, this in itself is quite a concession to rival broadcasters, for Mr Murdoch developed the technology for his own digital needs, not for the greater good of others.

The big question is whether Mr Cruickshank is up to the job, for this is no public service telephone company he's dealing with here. Mr Murdoch is one of the most aggressively commercial media players in the world and he will use every tool available to him to ensure his present monopoly of analogue pay TV is duplicated in the digital world. Mr Cruickshank's unenviable task is to ensure he doesn't.

To stand any chance of making a reasonable fist of it, however, he first needs to know what rival broadcasters want to do. Other than stamp their feet and chant "down with Mr Murdoch" there's not much evidence of them doing anything. Oh everyone's got a strategy, no doubt about that, but where are the advanced business plans? Rival broadcasters should stop wingeing about the terms of conditional access and put forward some concrete proposals for utilising it. Only then will some progress perhaps be made.

More embarrassment for the regulators

The DTI bags one or two insider dealers a year, and they seem more likely to get community service than a jail sentence. The Serious Fraud Office wins small cases but has a poor record on most of the big ones, including Maxwell.

Meanwhile, the great and the good are arguing for a switch to the use of civil law and regulatory penalties to deter wrongdoing of many kinds, from insider dealing to market manipulation. The theory is that the burden of proof is lower in civil and regulatory cases and this should raise the score rate. All very sensible in theory, but in practice it seems increasingly difficult to be confident that the civil penalties work any better.

The Securities and Futures Authority found to its embarrassment in the summer that the rulebooks were not tightly drawn enough to take any action at all against the people at the top of Barings – the chairman Peter Baring and his deputy Andrew Tuckey.

Now the SFA is faced with a succession of embarrassing defeats by the small fry of Barings, starting with Ron Baker, Nick Leeson's overall boss, who has successfully fought off an attempt to debar him from the City. This continued yesterday with confirmation of our report of a settlement with Mary Walz, Mr Baker's deputy. The remaining SFA cases against James Bax and Ian Hopkins, two other former Barings executives, look set to go the same way.

Having been unable to pin management responsibility where it is due – at the top – the SFA seems to have resorted to a scattergun approach lower down, but still without success. The best hope now is that it can push through its new rulebook, making it easier to bring charges against the very top management, and giving a real incentive to improve standards. As Nick Durlacher, chairman of the SFA, said last week "If the management structure is sound and managers are up to the job, then a fire started by a rogue will remain local and be quickly extinguished." Quite so.

Knight's reforms receive cautious welcome at A&L

Jill Treanor and Nic Cicutti

Compromise Treasury proposals to amend the forthcoming Building Societies Bill received a cautious welcome yesterday from societies preparing to convert to banks, as Alliance & Leicester members voted overwhelmingly in favour of a switch.

Around 500 mostly disgruntled Alliance & Leicester members attended the meeting at the London Arena in Docklands.

Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester said Treasury suggestions that it might amend a controversial "10-per-cent rule" on takeovers showed that dialogue over the Bill was still possible.

The Bill, to be published in draft form next week, proposes to do away with protection against predators for any demutualised society which takes over or merges with another institution within the first five years.

Woolwich, Northern Rock and Alliance & Leicester argue that they are in turn vulnerable to action from unrepresentative minorities.

Angela Knight, the Treasury minister, told *The Independent* earlier this week that she was looking at ways of protecting a converted society from being "bounced" by a small minority of shareholders into removing the five-year protection from takeover. The minority might want to call for a shareholder vote to open the way to a hostile bid.

Treasury sources said yesterday that the draft might seek to amend the rules whereby just 10 per cent of shareholders can requisition a special general meeting of the newly floated company and vote to abandon the five-year protection against takeovers.

A spokeswoman said: "The aim is to make sure that companies are not forced to give up their protection by a small action group."

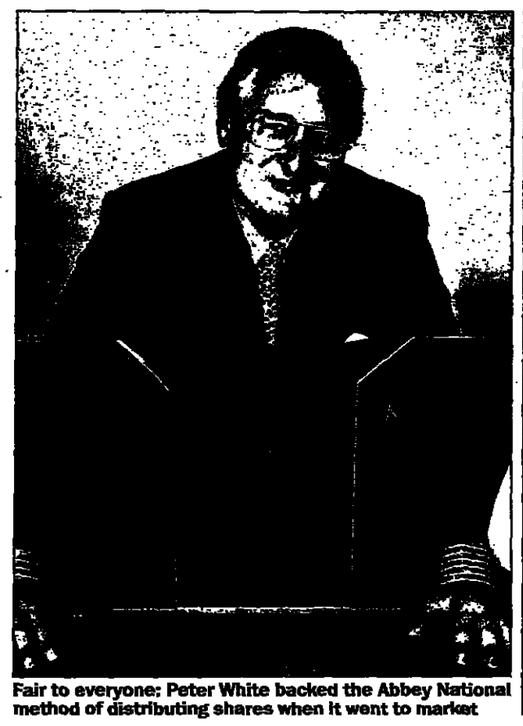
Although the way this can be done has yet to be fully considered, in order not to fall foul of the Companies Act, one option might be to increase the proportion of shareholders who would then have to vote in favour of a merger in a ballot.

Simon Everard, chairman of Alliance & Leicester, said at the end of the often ill-tempered meeting, that 70 per cent of investing members had voted and that 96 per cent of them voted in favour. He said 97 per cent of borrowers who voted were in favour. Speakers from the floor raised questions ranging from the share distribution scheme prosed by the society to the share options being awarded to the board of the society.

"If the basic priniciple of mutuality is one investor, one vote, why didn't you tell us in January [when the conversion plans were announced]," asked Patrick Mountain, who has received over 1,500 letters from furious members of the society.

They wanted Alliance & Leicester to award shares proportionate to the amount of savings they had with the soceity rather than the proposed flat rate of 250 per member.

Peter White, chief executive, said this was the method used by Abbey when it floated on the market and was also fair to the majority of members who had £2,000 or less in their accounts.



Fair to everyone: Peter White backed the Abbey National method of distributing shares when it went to market

Booming Compass to set new course

Nigel Cope

Compass Group, the catering company that has been expanding rapidly over the last three years, is to shift its focus to organic growth.

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said: "Our strategy is to grow organically and improve margins through a combination of better local purchasing power and economies of scale."

He was speaking as Compass reported a sharp jump in annual profits boosted by the first full-year contribution from Eurest International as well as the Eurest France and Service America acquisitions.

He said each of the group's divisions had shown good organic growth and margin improvement on a like for like basis.

In the UK the healthcare catering market has been particularly strong. In the US the margin rose in line with expectations to 4.2 per cent from 3.9 per cent and there was a good growth of 7.1 per cent in turnover on a like-for-like basis.

In the continental Europe and rest of the world division, the results were boosted by the integration of Eurest. Margins were boosted by increased volumes of food and beverages.

Compass group profits, before an exceptional item of £13m, jumped 56 per cent from £73.2m to £114m in the year to 29 September.

Turnover rose by more than 70 per cent to £2.65bn and the dividend was raised 13 per cent to 6.6p.

Compass said it did not expect any material impact from the strength of sterling in the current year as over 90 per cent of its key currencies are hedged.

Though the emphasis has shifted to organic growth the company said some smaller "in-fill" acquisitions were still likely. However, management has ruled out deals on the scale of Eurest.

No joy for Facia creditors

Nigel Cope

Creditors of the collapsed Facia retail group were denied the opportunity to question former directors of the company at a creditors' meeting in Leeds yesterday.

Stephen Hinchliffe, former Facia chairman, did not attend on advice from his lawyer. Christopher Harrison, the former finance director, did attend and chaired the meeting. However, he declined to answer questions.

Around 40 Facia creditors attended the meeting at which BDO Stoy Hayward was appointed liquidator. This was the choice of Sears, whose footwear businesses are a big creditor of the Facia group.

Stoy Hayward was appointed liquidator of Facia and all its subsidiaries including, Contessa, Sock Shop, Oakland Menswear, Red or Dead, Oakland Menswear, Torq Fashion, Salisbury's and Dovetail cabinetmakers.

Carlton buys stake in photo archive

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

Carlton Communications, Michael Green's media group, yesterday agreed to spend £17.3m for a 10 per cent stake in Getty Communications, a leading provider of archive and still photo images for businesses.

The deal will give Carlton the option of taking an additional 10 per cent stake within two years, and was said by the company to be "strategic".

Commenting on the transaction, Mr Green said: "There is undoubtedly change in the way a still or moving picture is being delivered. Getty is at the forefront of this change."

The two companies intend to co-operate in a range of activities, including the marketing by Getty of Carlton's own content. Carlton is a leader in video processing, post-production and editing.

Getty Communications was set up in 1993 by Mark Getty, scion of the wealthy US family, and his partner Jonathan Klein. The comp..ny took control of Tony Stone Images, the market leader in contemporary stock footage, and thereafter built up operations in archive photography and stock film footage.

"The last few years, the world has moved from being technology crazy to being content crazy," Mr Klein said yesterday. "New media has a huge need for imagery, and that is what we supply."

Mr Green, who first met Mr Klein 12 years ago, will join the Getty Communications board.

Getty's controlling shareholder, Getty Investments, will subscribe for additional shares in the company to retain its interest. Together with the Carlton investment, Getty Communications will have more than $40m to invest in acquisitions, Mr Klein said.

"There are thousands of companies with good products, but no marketing or management skills," he added.

IN BRIEF

• **Hoechst** is spinning off its specialty chemicals business to Clariant of Switzerland, creating a specialty chemicals company with annual sales of about Dm9bn (£3.5bn). The move, which will leave Hoechst with a 45 per cent stake in the enlarged Clariant, is designed to cut costs. Clariant, spun off by Sandoz last year, said it would win critical mass to better compete world-wide. The transaction comes amid a slew of mergers and divestments in the global chemicals and pharmaceuticals industry as companies try to squeeze operating costs. *Bloomberg*

• **Grand Metropolitan** has served a writ on Asda claiming some of the supermarket's own-brand spirits could be mistaken for GrandMet brands. GrandMet alleges that four of Asda's own brands – Daniel Boone's, Deep South, Asda Peach Schapps and Windward – could be mistaken for GrandMet's branded equivalent. Asda said it would defend itself against the allegations and said there was no case to answer. "We invite everyone to put Asda brands to the test. We're confident that they will agree these are "taste-a-like" and not "look-a-like" products.

• Sage, the accountancy software group, said pre-tax profits for the year to September rose to £30.1m from £22.4m, lower than analysts' forecasts. Earnings per share rose to 18.5p from 13.88p while the total dividend was increased to 2.64p (2.40p).

• Property group British Land reported a 38 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £34.3m in the six months to September, at the top of brokers' estimates. "The prospects for the areas where we are invested continue to improve," said chairman John Ritblat. "I view the second half with confidence in a competitive though still variable property market."

• NatWest is planning to launch a credit card in 1997 which will operate on the American Express network. The move is part of a strategic alliance announced by the two companies yesterday. NatWest declined to offer further details about the products. The deal is a break-through for Amex as Visa had been trying to frustrate efforts by banks to link up with Amex.

Chubb locked into flat markets

The Investment Column

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Chubb Security had a brief moment of glory after being demerged from Sir Ernest Harrison's Racal Electronics empire in 1992. Shares in the locks to electronic security group soared on hopes for a four-year revitalisation programme, but after an initial cost-cutting drive it became clear that Chubb would not emulate the success of Vodafone, another of Sir Ernest's "babies". A year ago, the group announced plans to step up its expansion through an acquisition and investment programme, but disappointing figures yesterday suggest the group still has to convince the City of its growth prospects.

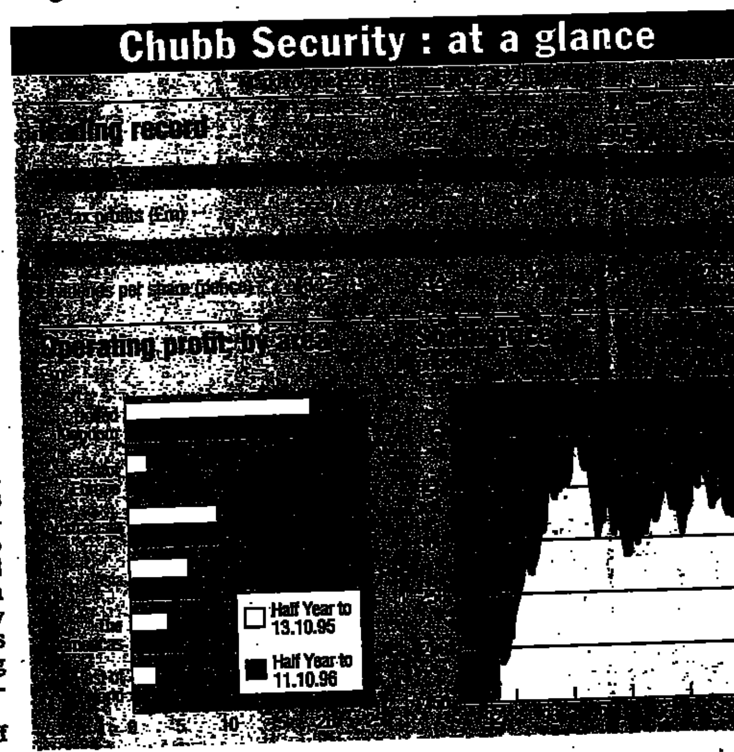
Pre-tax profits edged up just under 4 per cent to £46.1m on turnover an eighth higher at £427m in the six months to 11 October. But despite a 10 per cent uplift in the interim dividend, the shares sank 9.5p to 321p. The main drag on growth was in the traditional locks and safes to fire protection physical security division, which saw profits sink from £21.5m to £20.8m. Europe alone accounted for more than the total shortfall, with the £1.5m fall there split equally among locks, fire protection and safes.

South African locks and fire protection have also proved problematic, hitting results from businesses outside Europe, the US and Australia. Chubb does not see much recovery over last year in the second half in Africa.

Looking further out, Chubb has work to do after having sunk £182m into the business over the past 12 months. Most went on two Australian acquisitions: the £22m purchase of MSS Security in June and James Hardie Industries, picked up last week for £107m. A £2.5m restructuring programme means the former is on course to make a £1m loss this year, while shaking up Hardie and financing costs will lead to earnings dilution of around £2m in 1996-97. It will be next year and the year after before both start to really contribute to the bottom line.

But all that said, Chubb's strategy in unexciting markets remains credible. Electronic security continues its solid performance, recording organic growth of 10 per cent in a market increasing at 4-6 per cent a year, while the figures from physical security were respectable, given 2 per cent or so world-wide growth and nothing at all in Europe. Hardie will strengthen Chubb in a number of areas, roughly doubling its market shares in access control and fire detection and taking it to 19 per cent in the £1.2bn fire protection market.

But with brokers knocking £3m off forecasts for this year and next, it will remain a hard slog for Chubb. Full-year profits of £100m, followed by £115m, would put the shares on a forward multiple of 15, falling to 13. Fairly valued.



Berkeley stays a step ahead

Tony Pidgley, chief executive of upmarket housebuilder Berkeley, has built up a deserved reputation for always being one step ahead of the rest of the pack.

He famously went liquid at the top of the housing market boom in 1988. During the subsequent recession Berkeley alone among housebuilders kept profits and earnings moving forward.

More recently, Mr Pidgley has touted the virtues of city centre living while rivals vie with each other to pay fancy prices for volume greenfield developments.

His latest idea was to plan ahead for the general election. Mr Pidgley assumes housebuyers will, in effect, go on strike in the run-up to polling day, equivalent to £60m of Berkeley's sales.

In response, Mr Pidgley brought forward sales into the first half by beefing up Berkeley's marketing effort. This included spending about £500,000 on mock show homes, which are dismantled later once the transaction is completed.

The benefits of this forward planning are there for all to see. Pre-tax profits rose by 58 per cent to a better-than-expected £30.1m on sales up from £146m to £203m in the six months to October.

Earnings per share increased by a third to 21.1p while an interim dividend of 2.5p (2.2p) was declared.

Unit sales rose from 702 to 946 while the average selling price of a house was £210,000 (£196,000).

Berkeley has benefited more than most from its emphasis on executive homes in London and the South-east. But more than half of sales in the first half were outside the Capital where the first signs of a pick-up in prices is now being detected.

The strong performance at the interim stage has laid the foundations for another set of robust full-year results and brokers were busy upgrading their profit forecasts on these figures. NatWest raised its 1997 estimates by £4.5m to £59m, and by £4m to £65m for 1998.

That puts the shares, up 21p to 632.5p, on a price/earnings ratio of 15 falling to less than 14, making them a firm hold.

Allders finds a new focus

The sale of Allders' duty-free arm has transformed the business into a focused UK department store group, financially secure but, let's face it, not the most exciting investment proposition. The group has 30 stores, mainly town centre, in locations ranging from the pretty good to the uninspiring.

If that is not true, it is certainly the market's perception, and the shares at 146p trade at less than half the level they reached briefly in May. New management won plaudits for giving most of the duty-free sale proceeds straight to shareholders, but it plainly has an uphill struggle ahead to restore confidence in its ability to cash in on the current consumer boom.

All that is at odds with full-year figures which showed a dramatic upturn in fortunes in the second half. Overall like-for-like sales growth of 7 per cent during the year was 16 per cent in the latter six months and some areas are growing even faster.

The good news looks likely to continue in the current year with sales figures for the nine weeks since the year-end running 14 per cent ahead on a like-for-like basis. Allders reckons that puts it ahead of John Lewis and it is certainly an impressive rate.

Reported profits of £40.4m (£23.5m) were distorted by a £33.2m profit on the disposal of Allders International, the duty-free business Swissair picked up for £160m earlier in the year but the underlying picture is of strong growth. The final dividend of 3.7p made a basic total for the year of 6.1p, and a special payout of 46p from the duty-free proceeds brought the total to 52.1p.

On the basis of forecast profits of £21m this year, and an expected 25 per cent tax charge, the shares trade on a prospective p/e ratio of 10, a stingy rating for a company with plenty of scope to grow profits at its recent Owen Owen store acquisitions and the shares are good value.

Gem trade can't hold a candle to waxing lyrical

People & Business

Iain McGourty, managing director of Ernest Jones, Signet's more upmarket jewellery chain, is quitting to run Wax Lyrical, a fast growing group of candle shops.

Mr McGourty is leading a management buy-in of Wax Lyrical and will leave Signet in the new year to become managing director. He is acquiring 10 per cent of the shares while founders Marjorie Bannister and Mark Chessel will retain a 70 per cent stake.

Founded in 1990 Wax Lyrical now has 32 shops and last year made £1m profits on sales of £11m. But Mr McGourty reckons he can double the size of the business.

He admits he scarcely knows his beeswax from his candelabra but is not afraid to learn. "I'll be starting my learning curve immediately."

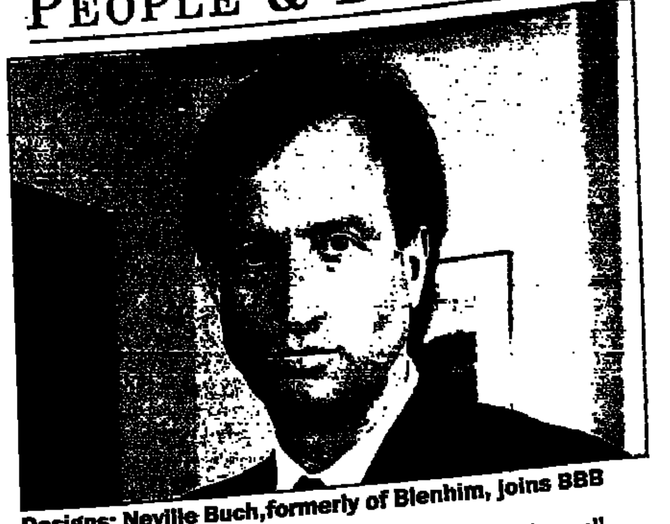
Mr McGourty, 49, has been keen to run his own show for some time. A former managing director of Country Casuals and Signet's Salisbury's luggage chain he put together a management buyout team team to buy Salisbury's last year but was beaten to it by Stephen Hinchliffe. "I've always wanted to be involved in an equity transaction and I feel Wax Lyrical is very much a retailer for the Nineties."

Ken Clarke 1: Is the strain of the single currency debate and all those off-the-record lunches starting to tell on our Chancellor? It is if a remark made to his press secretary on Monday is anything to go by.

"I've had enough of journalists," he said to **Jill Rutter**, the chief press secretary to the Treasury. "I don't want to see any any more."

Unfortunately for Mr Clarke, Ms Rutter had to inform him that he was due to attend a Treasury press reception that very evening where literally hundreds of hacks were due to invade his personal space.

Perhaps a glass or two of wine helped but the Chancellor managed to disguise his feelings about his guests and, I am told, was in rather good spirits all evening. He was one of the last to leave.



Designs: Neville Buch, formerly of Blenhim, joins BBB

Ken Clarke 2: Has canny Ken done a **Tony Blair** and started to alter his hairstyle? It's ever so subtle but economics observers who usually concentrate on the PSBR and long-term interest rates say there are definite signs of a make-over in the Barnet department.

This sparked flat denials from the Treasury, aghast that a man who resolutely sticks to wearing Hush Puppies with pin-striped suits, should be accused of such vanity. "He is not interested in altering his personal appearance. He's never felt the need to do that. It was probably just a case of a little too long between haircuts."

Neville Buch, the former chairman of Blenheim Exhibitions who made £24m from the group's sale to United News & Media a couple of months back, has wasted no time returning to the fray. He has been appointed non-executive director of BBB Design Group, which has a USM quote. He will move up to non-executive chairman in February when founder Philip O'Donnell splits the chairman and chief executive roles.

Mr Buch yesterday acquired a near-6 per cent stake in BBB and will push that to nearly 30 per cent next week when he buys shares from Mr O'Donnell.

The pair know each other well. Blenheim and BBB were almost merged eight years ago and Mr Buch's Holland Park pad is around the corner from BBB's Bayswater head office.

"I've known Neville ever since I took BBB public 10 years ago. He's been very successful and I'm sure his talents will help us."

Dairy group Unigate will receive some political assistance. It has appointed **John MacGregor**, the former secretary of state for transport, as a non-executive director.

However, it is Mr MacGregor's previous position as minister for agriculture, fisheries and foods which is likely to prove more useful. Unigate's chief executive Ross Buckland has been banging on about Milk Marque's pricing policies for ages. Mr MacGregor's lobbying skills will no doubt come in handy.

Nigel Cope

Independent Fantasy Football

Latest Results and Top 50 Teams

THE INDEPENDENT · THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY · PHILIPS *Let's make things better*

Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by *Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.*

The Team Markets and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 17 (Wk 17) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 2 December - Sunday 8 December inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 8 December.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent teams for [illegible] 17 August - Sunday [illegible] December. [illegible] published [illegible] Wednesday in The Independent for all [illegible] the previous [illegible] to Sunday [illegible] will also appear [illegible] Sunday.

The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions are as previously published and are available upon request.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

Top Fifty League Table

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 1 DECEMBER

POS.	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	MR S A SCOTT	FOREIGN BACKBONE	467
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	465
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	MR DAVID ROBINSON	DOUBLE D	458
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	MR DARREN GREEN	FOR THE AZURE	454
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	IAN BOYLE	-	451
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	451
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	MR PAUL HOOKER	NOBBIE'S BOYS	451
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
15	KEITH WATSON	ELEMENTARY OPPORTUNITIES	450
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
15	MR C NOBLE	T.O.F.T	450
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
19	MR DAVID ASHTON	THE LODGERS	449
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
19	MR D J ROBINSON	TANK FOR ENGLAND	449
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
23	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE F.C.	448
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
25	MR STEVEN WILSON	-	447
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	MR J LIPPETT	CLEAN SHEETS	446
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	MR G MURFYTT	CLEAN SHEET F.C.	446
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	MR S WOOLEY	INDEPENDENT BOYS	446
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	MR R NORTHCROFT	I KNOW YOUR WIFE	446
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35	MR G LAKE	BASKET OF EGGS	445
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY	-	445
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35	MR BARRY LEE	LEE MANOR	445
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
41	MR STUART BROADWAY	THE 3 MOUSEKETEERS	444
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
41	STEVE PAYNE	MONDAFIELD TUESDAY	444
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	MR S WALLS	THE UNTOUCHABLES	442
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	442
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	MR STEVEN THORNE	STEVE T'S SUPERSTARS	442
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	MR ALEXANDA FEEST	ZORO STRATIAN ZYNETICZ ZYGRI	442

Team Markets and Scores

B - Before transfer period · A - After transfer period

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 8 DECEMBER; WEEK 17 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 2 - 8 DECEMBER

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	Wk17	B	A	Ov	VALUE (£m)
	GOALKEEPERS						
300	Seaman	ARS	0	38	1	39	5.9
303	Bosnich	AV	0	5	0	5	4.0
304	Flowers	BLA	1	19	4	23	5.2
305	Kharine	CHE	0	20	0	21	3.7
306	Hitchcock	CHE	0	12	0	12	1.5
307	Ogrizovic	COV	1	22	5	27	2.2
308	Filan	COV	0	5	0	5	1.5
309	Southall	EVE	1	25	[illegible]	30	3.0
330	Martyn	LEE	5	28	16	44	3.3
333	James	LIV	[illegible]	27	13	40	4.7
335	Poole	LEI	0	1	1	2	1.5
336	Hoult	DER	1	24	7	31	1.6
337	Schmeichel	MU	1	25	8	33	5.5
338	Walsh	MID	6	6	8	14	3.0
339	Srnicek	NEW	0	27	3	30	3.7
340	Hislop	NEW	0	1	0	[illegible]	3.7
343	Crossley	NOT	[illegible]	19	3	22	2.7
344	Wright	NOT	[illegible]	0	0	[illegible]	1.3
345	Beasant	SOT	[illegible]	16	3	[illegible]	1.8
346	Pressman	SW	[illegible]	24	16	[illegible]	2.7
347	Coton	SUN	[illegible]	18	0	[illegible]	1.8
348	Walker	TOT	[illegible]	16	8	[illegible]	3.4
349	Miklosko	WH	[illegible]	19	9	[illegible]	3.0
350	Sullivan	WIM	[illegible]	32	8	[illegible]	1.8
	DEFENDERS						
400	Dixon	ARS	[illegible]	46	6	[illegible]	3.1
403	Winterburn	ARS	[illegible]	48	5	[illegible]	3.1
404	Bould	ARS	[illegible]	36	4	[illegible]	3.0
405	Adams	ARS	[illegible]	25	10	[illegible]	5.3
406	Keown	ARS	[illegible]	42	2	[illegible]	3.7
407	Staunton	AV	[illegible]	38	20	[illegible]	3.0
408	Southgate	AV	[illegible]	35	2	[illegible]	5.2
409	McGrath	AV	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	3.0
430	Ehiogu	AV	[illegible]	39	21	[illegible]	3.0
433	Wright	AV	[illegible]	36	19	[illegible]	3.4
440	Duberry	CHE	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
443	Petrescu	CHE	0	20	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.0
444	Phelan	CHE	0	1	0	[illegible]	1.9
445	Leboeuf	CHE	1	41	[illegible]	49	4.4
447	Minto	CHE	1	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.3
448	Daish	COV	1	16	7	23	2.7
449	Shaw	COV	1	15	5	20	2.2
450	Burrows	COV	0	10	2	12	2.2
453	Stimac	DER	0	15	0	15	3.3
454	Powell (C)	DER	0	22	3	25	1.8
455	Wassall	DER	0	0	0	0	[illegible]
456	Short	EVE	0	33	2	35	3.0
457	Watson	EVE	1	10	6	16	2.7
458	Unsworth	EVE	1	[illegible]	10	40	3.0
459	Hottiger	EVE	0	[illegible]	0	1	2.2
460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	61	[illegible]
463	Jobson	LEE	0	20	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
464	Kelly	LEE	4	27	18	45	3.4
465	Wetherall	LEE	5	23	10	33	[illegible]
466	Dorigo	LEE	0	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
467	Pemberton	LEE	0	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
468	Walsh	LEI	0	22	[illegible]	28	[illegible]
469	Grayson	LEI	6	26	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
470	Whitlow	LEI	0	25	2	27	1.2
473	Watts	LEI	5	31	8	39	1.6
474	Babb	LIV	5	28	6	34	3.7
475	Jones (R)	LIV	0	0	0	0	2.7
476	Wright	LIV	6	22	12	34	2.8
477	Ruddock	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	19	3.0
478	Scales	TOT	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	4.4
479	Harkness	LIV	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	2.2
480	Neville (G)	MU	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	29	3.7
483	Neville (P)	MU	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17	3.7
533	Walker	SW	[illegible]	19	16	35	2.5
534	Stefanovic	SW	3	21	9	30	1.6
535	Melville	SUN	3	31	12	43	2.2
550	Pearce	WIM	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
553	Reeves	WIM	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
555	Thatcher	WIM	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	MIDFIELDERS						
600	Merson	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
603	Platt	ARS	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
604	Parlour	ARS	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
606	Hillier	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.9
607	Taylor	AV	1	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.1
608	Townsend	AV	10	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
609	Draper	AV	4	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
630	Donis	BLA	0	15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
633	Wilcox	BLA	1	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
634	Ripley	BLA	0	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
635	Sherwood	BLA	1	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
636	Flitcroft	BLA	1	7	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
637	Gullit	CHE	1	6	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
638	Di Matteo	CHE	0	26	3	[illegible]	3.7
639	Wise	CHE	0	14	3	[illegible]	2.4
640	Newton	CHE	1	2	2	[illegible]	2.1
643	Peacock	CHE	0	0	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
644	Salako	COV	1	15	8	23	2.4
645	Telfer	COV	1	7	3	10	1.8
646	Richardson	COV	0	7	1	8	2.4
647	McAllister	COV	1	14	12	26	3.0
648	Jess	COV	1	7	4	11	2.2
649	Simpson	DER	0	15	[illegible]	16	2.2
650	Asanovic	DER	1	19	[illegible]	29	2.2
653	Van Der Laan	DER	0	2	0	[illegible]	1.6
654	Ebbrell	EVE	0	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
655	Kanchelskis	EVE	5	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.7
656	Parkinson	EVE	1	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.8
657	Stuart	EVE	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
658	Grant	EVE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
659	Bowyer	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
660	Wallace	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
663	Palmer	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
664	Barnes	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	5.2
665	Redknapp	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	38	5.9
666	McManaman	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	19	3.7
667	McAteer	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.0
668	Thomas	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
673	Keane	MU	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	28	4.5
674	Butt	MU	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
685	Ginola	NEW	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
734	Williamson	WH	0	6	1	7	3.7
735	Dumitrescu	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
736	Hughes	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
737	Moncur	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
738	Bishop	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
739	Jones	WIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	15	50	3.1
740	Earle	WIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	42	2.0
	STRIKERS						
[illegible]	Bergkamp	ARS	[illegible]	28	9	37	7.0
803	Wright	ARS	[illegible]	52	22	74	[illegible]
804	Hartson	ARS	2	21	4	25	[illegible]
806	Yorke	AV	6	37	17	54	6.7
807	Milosevic	AV	1	12	2	14	4.4
808	Johnson	AV	0	27	1	28	3.5
809	Joachim	AV	1	10	7	17	2.4
830	Shearer	NEW	0	52	9	61	11.1
833	Sutton	BLA	5	23	16	39	3.7
835	Vialli	CHE	5	41	11	52	8.1
836	Hughes	CHE	0	19	1	20	4.4
837	Spencer	CHE	0	6	0	6	2.5
838	Dublin	COV	1	15	16	34	4.7
839	Whelan	COV	4	14	10	24	5.2
840	Ndlovu	COV	0	3	3	6	4.3
843	Gabbiadini	DER	0	12	0	12	3.5
844	Ward	DER	1	13	12	25	2.5
845	Sturridge	DER	5	13	11	24	3.0
846	Ferguson	EVE	4	14	10	24	6.7
847	Amokachi	EVE	0	0	0	0	3.7
848	Rideout	EVE	0	3	0	3	3.0
849	Yeboah	LEE	0	0	0	0	5.9
850	Rush	LEE	1	14	7	21	5.2
853	Deane	LEE	1	7	10	17	3.0
854	Collymore	LIV	0	20	6	26	8.1
855	Fowler	LIV	2	28	7	35	9.5
856	Claridge	LEI	6	21	12	33	3.0
857	Heskey	LEI	2	31	5	36	2.8
858	Robins	LEI	0	1	0	1	2.0
859	Cantona	MU	4	27	7	34	8.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	MU	0	10	[illegible]	11	5.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	MU	0	3	0	3	6.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	MID	[illegible]	0	2	2	3.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	MID	1	42	12	54	8.0
[illegible]	Barmby	EVE	9	17	21	38	6.7
867	[illegible]	NEW	0	21	6	27	4.4
868	[illegible]	NEW	0	7	3	10	7.4
869	Ferdinand	NEW	0	48	1	49	8.6
870	Saunders	NOT	0	36	[illegible]	39	5.2
873	Roy	NOT	0	6	[illegible]	7	4.8
874	Campbell	NOT	0	21	2	23	3.1
[illegible]	Booth	SW	1	37	4	41	4.4
[illegible]	Hirst	SW	0	10	0	10	3.5
884	Stewart	SUN	0	13	-1	12	2.3
885	Sheringham	TOT	5	19	11	30	7.4
886	Armstrong	TOT	1	31	1	32	5.9
887	Rosenthal	TOT	0	8	1	9	2.1
888	Futre	WH	0	10	2	12	4.0
	MANAGERS						
[illegible]	Keegan	NEW	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.0
903	Ferguson	MU	1	19	8	27	9.0
904	Evans	LIV	5	23	8	31	7.0
905	Rioch*	ARS	0	0	0	0	6.0
906	Royle	EVE	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	34	5.5
907	Harford*	BLA	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	5.5
908	Francis	TOT	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	23	5.0
909	Wilkinson*	LEE	0	7	[illegible]	7	3.5
930	Redknapp	WH	1	14	4	18	3.3
933	Gullit	CHE	1	22	3	25	4.5
934	Clark	NOT	0	8	1	9	3.3
935	Robson	MID	1	13	2	15	5.0
936	Reid	SUN	0	13	4	17	2.0
937	Souness	SOT	0	13	0	13	3.3
938	O'Neill	LEI	4	12	7	19	1.8
939	Smith	DER	1	14	8	22	2.0
940	Kinnear	WIM	3	23	8	31	2.2
943	Atkinson*	COV	0	8	1	9	4.0
944	Little	AV	6	18	12	30	5.0
945	Pleat	SW	3	16	8	24	3.5

* Currently out of management.
Scores are subject to FA confirmation.

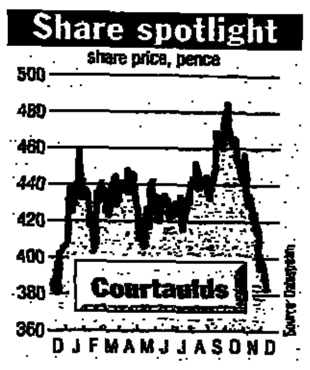
PHILIPS
Energy Saver
LIGHT BULBS

If you would like to know more about Philips range of lighting products, call 0181 686 1966 (Fantasy Football questions cannot be answered on this line).

Data Bank

FTSE 100
4035.7 + 24.1
FTSE 250
4411.9 + 26.9
FTSE 350
2003.9 + 12.1
SEAQ VOLUME
860m shares,
37,504 bargains
Gilts Index
95.05 + 0.35

Share spotlight



It's goodbye to old-timers Courtaulds and Pilkington

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

It's goodbye to **Courtaulds**, the chemical group, and **Pilkington** *of glass fame. The two* proud names of British industry will almost certainly today be given their marching orders from the prestigious Footsie blue chip share index.

Their shares are bumping along near their 12-month lows; Courtaulds' stock market valuation has fallen to around £1.6bn and Pilks is nearer £1.5bn.

As Guy Fisher at Natwest Securities points out they have been overtaken by Hays, the business services group, and Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager split from SBC Warburg in the summer of last year. The two likely newcomers are each capitalised at about £2.3bn.

Courtaulds and Pilks have looked vulnerable for some time. In the past few months Courtaulds has slumped from 487.5p to 384p, off 4.5p yesterday. Pilks' fall from grace has been rather more gentle, *with the shares coming down* from 222p early this year to 148p, off 2p.

Interim figures devastated Courtaulds. Profits fell £4m to £64m, prompting estimates for *this year and next to be cut.* The group's massive investment in wonder fibre, Tencel, *is beginning* to pay off but other parts of the business are struggling.

Pilks has been the subject of a two-way analysts' pull for much of the year. A slump in half-year profits and the group's discomfort as glass prices have continued to crack has given victory to the bears.

Hays gained 2p to a 542p peak and **MAM**, where takeover rumours linger, 27p to 1,238.5p, a few coppers from its high.

The rest of the market enjoyed a busy session with Footsie, up 24.1 points to 4,035.7, *offering enough encouragement* to revive hopes of more record-breaking performances. *Government stocks rose by* nearly £1.

The market drew support *from expectations today's Ken* and Eddie meeting will leave interest rates unchanged and further progress in New York.

Housebuilders were helped higher by the Berkeley results and oils shrugged off the long awaited Iraqi oil-for-food deal with **Lasmo**, the best performing blue chip, up 6p to 222p.

RJB Mining was the day's big casualty, crashing 112.5p to 372.5p as house stockbroker Barclays de Zoete Wedd cut its *profit forecasts for this year and* next.

Guinness weakened 9p to *435p with LVMH share sale rumours* again in the air and **Grand Metropolitan** lost 6p to *437.5p after stories resurfaced* it was about to strike at BolsWessanen, the Dutch food and drink group. "Mischievous" and "purely speculative" was Grandmet's response. It added: "A big acquisition is totally off the agenda at present".

Other old bid stories were given further whirls. **Abbey National** rose 17.5p to 708.5p on the Prudential Corporation link-up story and **BAT Industries** rose 11.5p to 488p in busy trading on continuing speculation about a financial services deal.

Pearson, ahead of a meeting with analysts and hopes of a revamp being announced next month, improved 13.5p to 720p and **Bass** put on a further *11.5p to 815p on its proposed* US hotel sales.

Glynwed International, the *engineer, fell 9p to 336p; Warburg* moved from buy to hold.

Imperial Tobacco was *puffed 9p higher to 378.5p on* talk of an unsatisfied buyer in the market for 2.5 million shares.

Cardinal Business, earmarked as Alan Baldwin's *comeback vehicle after his* Securiguard group was taken over by Rentokil Initial, rose 1p to 13p as Mr Baldwin, chairman and chief executive, and director Paul Baldwin quit. Veteran Nat Solomon takes over as non executive chairman. The Baldwins will each receive £200,000 compensation, funded partly by new shares.

Newcomer **Parkwood**, the business services group, closed *at 75.5p against a 65p placing.*

Real Time Control, the computer group, jumped 50p to *240p following a 56 per cent* profit advance but Alba, the television and video concern, *fell 41p to 225p on its 45 per* cent profits setback.

BBB Design rose 13p to *43p; Neville Buch of Blenheim* Exhibitions fame is to become chairman and has picked up 5.7 per cent and agreed to move to 29.6 per cent.

Wiggins, the property group ahead of results, expected today, edged forward 0.25p to 7.25p. **BSS**, a heating and plumbing group, tumbled 55p to 542.5p following lower interim profits.

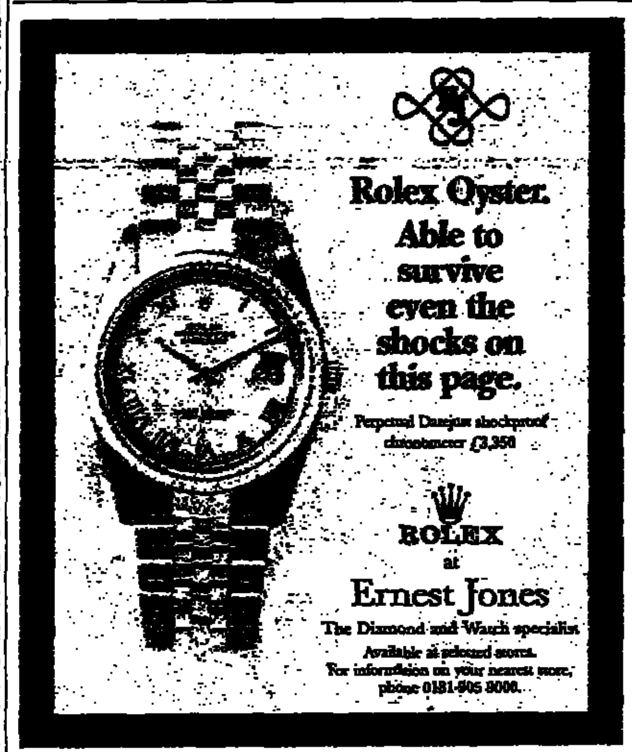
Great Western Resources, the US oil and gas explorer, flared 4p to 19.5p.

Taking Stock

❑ **First-time dealings in two newcomers, due today, have been postponed until *Friday* for contrasting reasons. Oxford Biomedica lost two of its four underwriters at the last moment and cut its flotation to 10 per cent of its capital *from 22 per cent. It is now* raising £5m against ambitions of £11m.**

***Yeoman, a hi-tech group,* delayed because of a late rush of private investors. *Stockbroker Bell Lawrie* White sought the postponement so it could accommodate the late comers.**

❑ **Deltron Electronics held at 150p. It has signed a contract with Mitsubishi Electric of Japan for filter solutions which is worth up to £3m a year. When it floated in September Deltron forecast profits of £2.59m on £25m turnover. Results are due in January.**



Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares ‡ AIM Stock Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 – Real-time	00	Sterling Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	*01*	*Bullion Report*	*05*	*Water Shares*	*39*
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4375 (900am - 500pm).

Calls cost 50p per minute (daytime), 45p per minute at all other times. Call charges include

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000
BTR	2570000	Vodafone	1220000	Lloyds TSB	940000	REXAM	770000
BAT Inds	2350000	Hanson	1090000	Cable & Wire	930000	Cadbury Schwe	770000
ASDA Group	1550000	BP	1050000	T&N	840000	Prudential	760000
British Gas	1360000	Ladbroke	1030000	Imperial Tobacco	810000	Grand Met	740000
Tesco	1340000	Wimpey	990000	BT	790000	Marks & Spencer	730000

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 4033.4 up 21.8	11.00 4033.9 up 22.3	14.00 4035.3 up 23.7
09.00 4034.7 up 23.1	12.00 4037.2 up 25.6	15.00 4031.6 up 20.0
10.00 4025.3 up 13.7	13.00 4037.6 up 26.0	16.00 4031.8 up 20.2
		Close 4035.7 up 24.1

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Chg
Aukett Associates	1¼pm	[illegible]
Bioccompatibles Intl	220pm	+35
Bodycote Intl	110pm	[illegible]
INVESCO Units	48pm	[illegible]
Mowlem Group	11¼pm	[illegible]
Regalian Props	1¼pm	[illegible]

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Chg
Access Plus	100½xd	
Advanced Power Cm	[illegible]	+4½
Archer Dedicated	100	
Brands Hatch Les	185	+5½
Bats Allcroft	[illegible]	
Corporate	[illegible]	
City Group	[illegible]	+1
Charterhouse Comms	6½	
Dawn Til Dusk	[illegible]	
Druid Grp	[illegible]	+5½
Easier Inv	[illegible]	
Finsbury Ins Hedge	[illegible]	-1½
Fort Ruislon Pref C	[illegible]	
Future Ind Telephony	[illegible]	
Goshawk Insce	[illegible]	
Grantchester Hldgs	[illegible]	+2
Kern River	[illegible]	
Oliver Ashworth	[illegible]	
Parkwood Holdings	75½	
Prevend	[illegible]	+1½
Recycling Servs	[illegible]	
Scot Highland Hotels	138	
Second St David Inc	[illegible]	
Second St David Rec	[illegible]	
Second St David Z Pf	[illegible]	
Semple Cochrane	25	+1½
Snowboard	34	

unit trusts

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	DOLLAR Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK Spot
US	1.6917	9-7	34-31	1.0000	-	-	0.6436
Canada	2.2410	54-49	164-156	1.3568	24-23	75-73	0.8732
Germany	2.5665	69-61	209-195	1.5539	30-28	90-87	1.0000
France	8.6814	217-198	640-608	5.2560	85-81	269-258	3.3828
Italy	2593	31-45	109-123	1533.9	26-35	91-101	985.908
Japan	187.21	95-91	281-276	110.34	48-47	149-147	72.9446
ECU	1.3309	21-16	66-61	1.2714	13-14	44-45	0.5184
Belgium	52.921	25-10	42-36	32.040	7-5	30-17	20.8198
Denmark	9.8295	222-177	655-556	5.9475	88-79	298-247	3.8275
Netherlands	2.8790	82-74	240-226	1.7431	38-37	121-115	1.1218
Ireland	0.9974	5-1	16-10	1.6580	8-3	10-6	0.3888
Norway	10.709	160-90	380-270	6.4939	50-35	119-89	4.1728
Spain	215.87	12-21	31-48	130.70	18-20	40-48	84.1104
Sweden	11.281	15-8	44-33	6.8302	41-16	152-101	4.3958
Switzerland	2.1810	85-76	239-226	1.3265	40-37	119-114	0.8537
Australia*	2.0804	10-16	15-25	1.2404	14-15	33-35	0.8028
Hong Kong	12.772	93-82	240-193	7.7325	3-0	3-7	4.9763
Malaysia	4.1879	0-0	0-0	2.5234	27-30	80-85	1.6243
New Zealand*	2.3813	64-71	155-168	1.4296	54-55	97-99	0.9200
Saudi Arabia	6.1947	0-0	0-0	3.7505	1-4	5-9	2.437
Singapore	2.3724	0-0	0-0	1.4000	24-19	70-65	0.9010

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6920	0.9999	Nigeria	131.879	78.8200
Austria	18.0592	10.9387	Oman	0.6361	0.3850
Brazil	1.7720	1.0362	Pakistan	68.2200	40.0799
China	13.7128	8.2894	Philippines	43.5028	26.3300
Egypt	5.6225	3.4051	Portugal	259.350	157.320
Finland	7.8997	4.6624	Qatar	6.0120	3.6410
Ghana	2840.06	1720.00	Russia	9133.26	5532.00
Greece	404.839	245.030	South Africa	7.7498	4.8505
India	59.2830	35.8800	Taiwan	45.4665	27.5300
Kuwait	0.4957	0.3000	UAE	6.0687	3.6731

Note: Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount (subtract from spot rate); those quoted low to high are at a premium (add to spot rate). *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033. Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate) 49p other times

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	2.0000	France(Francs)	8.4300	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.3700
Austria(Schillings)	17.6000	Germany(Marks)	2.5025	Norway(Kroner)	10.4000
Belgium(Francs)	51.5000	Greece(Drachmae)	397.0000	Portugal(Escudos)	251.7000
Canada(Dollars)	2.1800	Hong Kong(Dollars)	12.4800	Spain(Pesetas)	208.9000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.7525	Ireland(Punts)	0.9675	Sweden(Kronor)	11.0600
Denmark(Kroner)	9.6175	Italy(Lira)	2488.0000	Switzerland(Francs)	2.1050
Holland(Guilders)	2.8100	Japan(Yen)	185.0000	Turkey(Lira)	163894.0000
Finland(Markka)	7.6300	Malta(Lm)	0.5825	United States(Dollars)	1.6145

Interest Rates

UK Base	6.00%	Germany Discount	2.50%	US Prime	8.25%	Japan Discount	0.50%
France Intervention	3.20%	Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium Discount	2.50%
Italy Discount	7.5%	Canada Prime	4.75%	Fed Funds	5.25%	Central	3.00%
Netherlands Advances	2.50%	Discount	5.00%	Spain 10-Day Repo	6.75%	Switzerland Discount	1.00%
		Denmark Discount	3.25%	Sweden Repo (Ave)	4.60%	Lombard	4.125%

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	7½%	7.17	7¾%	7.48	Netherlands	8¾%	4.69	6%	5.77
US	5⅞%	5.94	6.50%	6.20	Spain	8.40%	6.16	8.80%	6.39
Japan	5.91%	1.49	3⅛%	2.58	Italy	8.25%	6.13	8¾%	7.54
Australia	9¾%	7.07	10%	7.34	Belgium	5%	6.83	7%	5.87
Germany	8.25%	4.85	6.25%	5.76	Sweden	13%	5.86	6%	6.95
France	7%	4.86	6.5%	5.71	ECU OAT	6%	4.97	7%	8.10

Source: HSBC Markets Research. Yields calculated on local basis. ** Denotes new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'night		7 Day		1 Month		3 Months		6 Months		1 Year	
Interbank	2	6⅛	5¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅞	6	6⅛	6¼	6⅛	6⅜	6¼	6½	6⅜
Sterling CDs	-		-		6½		6¼		6⅜		6⅜	
Local Authority Deps	5⅞		5⅞		6⅛		6¼		6½		6⅝	
Discount Market Deps	6⅛		5⅞		-		-		-		-	
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-		-		5⅞		6⅛		-		-	
Dollar CDs	-		-		4.89		5.06		5.17		5.35	
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	-	-	4¾	4⅝	4¾	4⅝	4¾	4⅝	4¾	4⅝

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day		EstConts traded	Open Interest
Long Gilt	(Dec 96)	110-27	110-29	110-14	3852	10229
German Gvt Bd	(Mar 97)	100.80	101.06	100.80	155913	223236
Italian Bond	(Mar 97)	129.48	129.94	129.22	42482	82316
Japan Gvt Bd	(Mar 97)	125.69	125.70	125.53	1295	n/a
3 Mth Sterling	(Dec 96)	93.62	93.63	93.61	6200	90857
	(Mar 97)	93.43	93.48	93.42	9241	94415
3 Mth Euromark	(Dec 96)	96.76	96.77	96.74	18684	185398
	(Mar 97)	96.84	96.85	96.83	11892	208292
3 Mth Eurolira	(Dec 96)	92.77	92.88	92.75	9987	59869
	(Mar 97)	93.52	93.63	93.49	14207	84051
3 Mth Euroyen	(Mar 97)	98.44			0	n/a
3 Mth Euroswiss	(Dec 96)	97.78	97.79	97.76	2405	24249
	(Mar 97)	97.86	97.88	97.84	3589	34858
3 Mth ECU	(Dec 96)	95.81	95.83	95.81	470	7855
	(Mar 97)	95.89	95.92	95.89	770	7973
FTSE 100	(Dec 96)	4044.0	4052.0	4026.0	15614	44261
FTSE 250	(Dec 96)	4430.5	4425.0	4425.0	60	3430

Liffe FTSE Index Option

Settlement price: 4034.00	closing offer price				Call/Put Total/vols
Series	3950	4000	4050	4100	
Dec	104/8	61/17	29/36	10/71	- -
Jan	136/29	98/44	66/62	41/89	- -
Feb	165/48	130/63	98/82	73/108	- -
Mar	178/68	143/82	114/104	86/127	- -

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange

$/tonne	Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks	chg
Aluminium HG	1476-7	1507-8	494401	546700	- 2428
Aluminium Alloy	1320-5	1352-5	1888	75120	400
Copper A	2280-5	2234-5	81684	105275	+ 5400
Lead	682-3	689-70	6992	122275	- 12275
Nickel	8705-15	8760-800	12709	48036	+ 48036
Tin	5750-60	5780-5	6938	9860	+ 9860
Zinc	1055-6.5	1041-3	28698	52600	- 52500
Settlement Conversion exchange rate		1.6487	1.5548	110.31	

Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Tues 10 Dec '96

PRECIOUS METALS

per fix/oz	$	£	Coins	$	£		$	£
Platinum	367.75	222.80	Britannia	386	234	Krugerrands	363/391	220/225
Palladium	118.00	71.50	Britannia.5 oz	195	119	Sovs	84/94	51/57
Silver spot	481.50	291.50	Britannia.25 oz	102	62	Nobles	365/381	221/231
Gold Bullion	368.25	223.32	Britannia.10 oz	53	32	Maple Leaf	368/385	223/233

Source: Spink & Son

AGRICULTURAL

Cocoa LIFFE	£/tonne	Coffee LIFFE	$/tonne	Barley LIFFE	£/tonne	Potatoes LIFFE	£/tonne	Potatoes ATA	Gld/100kg
Dec	879	Jan	1331	Jan	92.25	Mar	60.00	-	
Mar	931	Mar	1264	Mar	93.50	Apr	60.30	Feb	22.90
May	950	May	1225	May	94.75	May	63.50	Apr	11.40
Vol	2266	Vol	5834	Vol	51	Vol	39	Vol	127

White Sugar LIFFE	$/tonne	Freight LIFFE	$10/index pt	Wheat LIFFE	£/tonne	Corn CBOT#	Cents/bushel Hi-Lo	Setl
Mar	297.20	Dec	1475	Jan	93.75	Dec	267.00-265.50	266.25
May	297.10	Jan	1390	Mar	95.80	Mar	264.50-263.00	263.75
Aug	298.80	Vol	575	May	97.45	May	265.75-263.25	265.75
Vol	1216	Index	1470	Vol	608			

1230 Prices. Source: CMS

Other Softs (Agricultural)

Nov	Maize (No3)**	$/tonne	116.00	Feb/Apr	Soya Oil§	FL/100kg	91.25
Jan/Feb	Copra (†)	$/tonne	155.00	Dec/Jan	Coconut Oil (†)	$/tonne	780.00
Mar	Cotton (NY)	UScent/lb	76.05	Dec	Sunflower Oil§	$/tonne	505.00
Dec	Wool	Acent/kg	650.00	Jan	Rapeseed Oil§	FL/100kg	93.25
Dec	Rubber*	Mcent/kg	316.00	Dec/Jan	Groundnut Oil	$/tonne	870.00

Origin: §Dutch/EC - any origin - †Philippines/Indonesia *Malaysia **N Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

ENERGY

Brent Crude IPE	5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	Gasoil IPE	close	*chg	WTI		Products † 6pm Spot CIF North West Europe	($/tonne)
Jan	23.60	-0.28	18.58	Dec	213.00	-2.50	Jan	24.70	Unleaded Gasoline	220/224
Feb	23.04	-0.24	18.56	Jan	214.75	-2.00	Feb	24.30	Heavy Fuel Oil	114/223
Mar	22.43	-0.15	18.53	Feb	210.00	-2.00	Mar	23.75	Naphtha	228/230
Vol	29,655	Index	24.07	Vol		24,896	Apr	23.30	EC Gasoil	222/223

*since 5.30pm previous day. Year ago prices show average for week. Source: ICIS-London Oil Reports 18pm prices

COMMODITY INDICES

*GSCI Indices	Base date	+Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	%Yr to dt chg	Year ago	% Yr chg
Index	1970=100	215.54	-2.66	203.50	+6.41	194.45	+11.36
Agricultural	1970=100	228.09	-0.70	281.75	-19.05	277.93	-17.84
Energy	1983=100	87.63	-4.01	71.31	+22.74	65.37	+33.91
Industl Metals	1977=100	162.27	-0.89	193.32	-13.48	194.17	-13.88
Livestock	1970=100	185.71	+0.50	182.71	+1.65	188.33	-1.26
Precious Metals	1973=100	463.82	-0.30	489.86	-5.36	496.07	-6.54

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. *GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 9 Dec 1996

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer
Abbey Equity Ser 4	2705		2848
Abbey International Ser 4	2186		2302
Abbey Managed Ser 4	7803		8214
Abbey National Managed	1414		1489
Abbey National UK Equity	1502		1582
Albany Equity Acc Ser 3	19535		20562
Albany Multiple Inv Acc S3	12288		12932
Allied Dunbar Distribution Bond	2540		2680
Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	17222		18129
Allied Dunbar Gen 4 High Income Ser	238.80		400
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	13133		13823
Allied Dunbar Property Acc	68200		68640
AXA Equity & Law Bal Ser 6	76790		80800
AXA Equity & Law Dist Ser 6	10580		11130
AXA Equity & Law Hi Inc Ser 6	12652		13318
AXA Equity & Law UK Eq Ser 6	12400		13050
Barclays Equity Acc	10821		11161
Barclays International Acc	4613		4958
Barclays Managed Acc	6303		6635
Black Horse Income Fund Ser 2	90697		95471
Black Horse Mngd Inv S2	568.87		598.82
Canada Managed Ser 2	8408		8850
Cal/Fid Equity	4061		4298
CMFid Sapphire/Mixed	3437		3618
CM With Profits Bond	1069		1089
Confederation Equity I	21264		22330
Commercial Union Managed	4755		5017
Commercial Union UK Equity	6083		6404
Commercial Union With Profit	1364		1436
Eagle Star Managed 2	1902		2003
Family Performance	1621		1706
Friends Provident Managed	3719		3915
Friends Provident UK Equity	5139		5410
Friends Provident With Profit	2017		2167
General Accident With Profit	1578		1659
GA Prov Mutual Eq Ord	8829		9304
GA Prov Mutual Mgd Ord	5598		5883
Gan Managed	3582		3772
GRE Equity Acc	12767		13438
GRE International Acc	7517		7912
GRE Managed Acc	8051		8475
Hill Samuel Equity	7541		7949
Hill Samuel Managed Ser A	6565		6895
Irish Life Global Mgd Prem Ser 3	6800		7158
J Rothschild(SU) Place Mgd	1853		1951
Laurentian Imperial UK Mgd Acc	3163		3305
Laurentian Managed Acc Ser 3	6251		6580
Laurentian UK Equity Acc	5550		5842
Legal & General Equity Acc	14322		15076
Legal & General International Acc	6163		6488
Legal & General Managed Accum	9783		10238
London & Manchester Flexible Acc		5895	
London Equity		107080	
London Mixed		59430	
M & G Managed Bond Acc	10342		10860
M & G Recovery Bond Acc	9086		9541
Merchant Investors Managed	5583		5876
Midland Balanced	995		1048
Midlands UK Equity	1187		1250
NatWest Growth Managed	1405		1479
NatWest Security Mgd	1285		1353
NatWest UK Equity	1520		1600
Norwich Union Mgd Ex NUAM MF	1740		1832
Norwich Union Unitised Managed	17281		18190
Norwich Union Unitised With Profits	16635		17510
NPI Managed	5829		6135
Pearl Equity Mat	3518		3699
Pearl Managed	3711		3865
Prudential Prufund Managed	4189		4373
Prudential Indiv Mgd Ser 2	9542		10045
Royal Life Managed	4610		4852
Royal Scottish Growth Managed	19710		20750
Royal Scottish UK Equity	2028		2133
Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1	7335		7722
Scottish Amicable Managed Ser 1	5510		5800
Scottish Equitable Mixed	3117		3283
Scottish Life Managed	3448		3631
Scottish Mutual Safety	2724		2868
Scot Prov Inst Blue Chip	1892		1992
Scot Prov Inst With-Profits	1332		1403
Scottish Widows International	5535		5827
Scottish Widows Mixed	5408		5705
Standard Equity	12847		13524
Standard European	1970		2074
Standard Far East	1781		1875
Standard Fixed Interest	4547		4787
Standard Managed	8623		8974
Sun Alliance Equity	11324		11920
Sun Alliance Managed	8257		8692
Sun Life Deferred Distribution	1957		2061
Sun Life Distribution	2961		3117
Sun Life Equity Acc	18032		19033
Sun Life Managed Acc	10801		11369
Sun Life Can Century Eq		1457	
Sun Life Can Century Mgd		1408	
Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Eq Acc	8449		8779
Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Mgd Acc	4587		4828
TSB Equity	4487		4724
TSB Homebuyer	3082		3254
TSB Managed	3383		3561

UNIT TRUST GUIDE

d	ex dividend
e	exit charge applies when units are sold
buy	formerly 'offer'
sell	formerly 'bid'
x	Non SIB recognised funds

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هكذا من الأصل

Action men in sibling partnership

Greg Wood on brothers who merged their racing stables

One of the reasons why so many trainers are hopeless tipsters is that, like doting parents at the school sports day, they refuse to believe that their little darlings can be anything other than the fittest and fastest in the class. Try as they might to avoid sentimentality, many of the horses become additions to the family, to be cherished and defended accordingly, and just as few parents would want to share their family with the one next door, the thought of mixing their string with that of a fellow trainer would not be an agreeable one.

In one Lambourn stable, though, just such an arrangement is currently enjoying considerable success, but it is surely no coincidence that the trainers involved are family already. When a persistent virus stopped Simon Sherwood's training career in its tracks, a convoy of horseboxes was dispatched to his yard in East Garston, and returned to Rhonehurst, for 14 years the base for Oliver, his brother, with Simon's entire string.

The two Sherwood operations were merged into one, and while Jockey Club bureaucracy allows only one name – Oliver's – on the licence, the new regime is very much a partnership of equals.

And three months in, it is proceeding very smoothly, with a 22 per cent strike rate and more than £110,000 banked in prize-money. There is also an easy air about Rhonehurst and the Sherwoods, a sense of confidence and optimism, which implies that the decision to unify their yards was a very shrewd one.

It is certainly not a half-hearted exercise, extending even to the respective brothers' stable dogs, which now scurry around the same kitchen table. "Basically it's a totally straightforward business merger," Oliver says. "Of course there's going to be a few teething problems, but we've always got on well and we seem to have struck a good balance. Obviously, there was much more upheaval for Simon, he had to sell the yard and move into a new house, which was quite traumatic, but his owners have all been marvellous."

When Simon Sherwood saddled a double at Cheltenham on Gold Cup day, 1992, it was inconceivable that his time in East Garston would, within four years, reach such a conclusion, but the virus which swept through his string was both stubborn and thorough. "Three seasons after the Festival double we just hit a brick wall," he says. "We were wiped out, just eight winners, and then we had to replace the whole lot and of the 26 we got, 12 of them were bumper horses. I wasn't making money, and it's easy to get on the slippery slope, waiting for a good winner. Suddenly, you're in a tricky financial situation."

Even so, the decision to join his brother was not sudden or one-sided. "It was a communal idea, really. We realised that we needed each other, not necessarily as people, but that our businesses needed each other.

"The fates had dealt me a couple of duff cards. I've always been a little like that, if I'm not going in the direction I want, then I'll get out before I have to fight through and come back and do the whole cycle."

Oliver's operation, meanwhile, has received an injection of vigour and new possibilities from which even such a successful yard can benefit after almost a decade and a half in the business. Many fine animals have passed through his hands, The West Awake, Cruising Altitude and Arctic Call among them, while another, Large Action, is back in training after a long absence through injury and may yet win the Champion Hurdle which would reward his talent and durability.

'If ever a horse deserved to win the Champion Hurdle, it's him. He's a real pro, so easy to train'

Firm ground may rule him out of the Bula Hurdle, over the Champion's course and distance, at Cheltenham this weekend, but with his successful return to the track in a Grade One hurdle at Fairyhouse last month, Large Action has already provided Oliver Sherwood with one of the most satisfying moments of his career.

"There are times when I could walk away from it all, when I just don't want the hassle," he says. "When an owner takes their horses away, or lets rip when you're doing your best. The vast majority of my owners are wonderful, but you get some nowadays with no animal sense at all, they want immediate returns and don't understand that animals are subject to sniffs and coughs. The grass is always greener and they switch round like the magic roundabout, just for the sake of it.

"But then you get a day like the one in Ireland with Large Action, and it makes it all worthwhile. I must admit that in the darkest tunnels I didn't think he'd come back to be a Champion Hurdle horse, and we could still move up to staying races if the speed's not quite there, but I'd love to think we could go to the Champion with a live chance. If ever a horse deserved to win it, it's him. He's a real pro, so easy to train. You can just keep giving him work and he'll bounce back for more."

Large Action may inevitably be identified with Oliver Sherwood, but between the brothers there is no displaced jealousy, no "he used to be mine" attitudes. "It would be well-nigh impossible if it was, say, a Sherwood and Kim Bailey joining up because both would retain their identity," Simon says.

"We will probably set out some ground rules as we go along, but at the moment we're both feeling our way, getting to know each other's horses, rather than needing to delegate roles.

"Perhaps after the first year, we'll sit down and work out where our strengths and weaknesses are. Ultimately, Oliver probably has the final word to a certain extent, but if I disagree with something, I'm certainly going to voice it, and then we'll talk it through.

"Basically it's just like any other partnership. The most important thing is to keep talking." And for as long as the two masters of Rhonehurst keep talking, you can be fairly sure that they will keep training winners.

Champion Hurdle contender Large Action, pride of Rhonehurst stables, is fussed over by Oliver (left) and Simon Sherwood Photograph: Peter Jay

Moonax eclipsed

Moonax's chances of winning the Champion Hurdle looked remote after his defeat at odds of 8-13 when making his jumping debut at Huntingdon yesterday. The 1994 St Leger winner is now 33-1 with Hills for Cheltenham and will be aimed at another Festival target, perhaps the Stayers' Hurdle.

Sharpical, who easily beat Moonax into second place yesterday, is 50-1 with the same firm. The winner of a 10-furlong handicap at Leicester in August for Sir Mark Prescott, Sharpical displayed distinct promise. But Nicky Henderson, his trainer, warned that the horse still had a lot to learn.

Results, page 22

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Daring Past (Hexham 2.50)
NB: Fantasy Line (Leicester 1.00)

BHB under fire from Said

Wafic Said, the leading racehorse owner, last night described the British Horseracing Board as "wheat sown on shallow ground". The board, he said, "sprang up vigorously and then withered away, returning to the traditional bureaucracy, so beloved in Whitehall".

Said called for a reformation of the BHB to direct a marketing drive at major industries and institutions of the country to create and exploit media awareness and sponsorship opportunities. "Look at the income all other sports are receiving from TV. Where are we?"

The speech was delivered by his racing manager Tim Bulwer-Long at the Gimcrack Dinner in York. Said also called for an off-course Tote monopoly.

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LEICESTER

HYPERION
1.00 Bay Fair 1.30 Ramstown Lad 2.00 Parish Walk 2.30 LORD OF THE WEST (nap) 3.00 Lord McMurrough 3.30 Cawarra Bay (nb)

GOING: Hurdles – Good to Soft (Good in places); Chases – Good to Firm (Good in places).
Right-hand, undulating course.
Racecourse is 2 miles south-east of city off A6. Leicester railway station (London, St Pancras – Sheffield line) over 2 miles away. ADMISSION: Adults £9, OAPs £5. Free racecards. CAR PARK: Free.

SIS | RACING CHANNEL

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe — 17 winners from 59 runners gives a success ratio of 28.8% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £12.62; D Nicholson — 11 winners, 39 runners, 17.0%, -£6.82; Mrs J Pitman — 7 winners, 39 runners, 17.9%, -£6.91; N Henderson — 5 winners, 13 runners, 38.5%, +£11.14.
LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody — 9 winners, 45 rides, 20.0%, -£20.60, W Marston — 9 winners, 52 rides, 17.3%, +£16.21; A Maguire — 9 winners, 56 rides, 16.1%, -£23.91; C Llewellyn — 8 winners, 33 rides, 24.2%, +£16.54.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fleet Cadet (2.00, visor)
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Lord Of The West (2.30) has been sent 183 miles by J J O'Neill from Skelton Wood End, Cumbria; Fleet Cadet (2.00), Scottish Park (2.00) & Diwali Dancer (3.00) sent 176 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon.

1.00 ASH MARES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m Penalty Value £2,902

1 2/11 MELSTOCK MEGGIE (9) (D) (Mrs Kay Birchenhough) Mrs J Pitman 6 11 3 ...W Marston
2 213-21 POTTER'S GALE (27) (D) (J E Potter) D Nicholson 5 11 3 ...A Maguire
3 04-5 BAY FAIR (21) (The Blowingstone Partnership) J Bosley 4 10 10 ...M Richards
4 3 FANTASY LINE (18) (Mrs P Starkey) P Webber 5 10 10 ...J Osborne
5 5030 LADY FOLEY (28) (Foley Steelstock) C Mann 4 10 10 ...J Magee (3)
6 0- NEPTUNES MISS (214) (Philip Higson) M Wilkinson 4 10 10 ...I Lawrence
7 6/3-2 PIP'S DREAM (46) (P E Axon) M Ryan 5 10 10 ...J Ryan
8 203- QUALITAIR PRIDE (377) (Qualitair Holdings Limited) J Bottomley 4 10 10 ...G Bradley
9 0/4000- QUICK QUOTE (288) (M H D Barlow) Mrs I McKie 6 10 10 ...L Harvey
10 5 TREHANE (25) (Brian Marchi) N Graham 4 10 10 ...N Williamson
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Potter's Gale, 4-1 Melstock Meggie, 5-1 Bay Fair, 11-2 Fantasy Line, 7-1 Pip's Dream, 12-1 Qualitair Pride, 14-1 Lady Foley, 16-1 others.
1995: Supreme Lady 4 11 0 J F Titley 4-1 (Miss H Knight) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE
The successful bumper mare POTTER'S GALE made her hurdling debut at Towcester last month and won as an odds-on chance should, leading two out and coming clear for a comfortable five-length defeat of Morlousion. Like her full-brother, the winning hurdler/chaser Potter's Bay, she looks a prospect and has the scope to follow up in this stiffer contest. Melstock Meggie has followed a similar path to Potter's Gale, although she had to work harder before beating Moor Hall Lady at Worcester on her first attempt over hurdles. She is another decent mare and, with improvement almost guaranteed, has to be a big danger. Qualitair Pride was coming with a dangerous-looking run when almost on the floor at the second last, yet still finished strongly into third behind Prophets Honour here more than a year ago. That turned out to be good form and there was no doubt she was unlucky, but she has not been out since and it remains to be seen whether she is capable of reproducing it. Bay Fair's staying-on fifth behind Not For Turning at Kempton was a promising first effort – probably better than Fantasy Line's Folkestone third – and she is preferred to the Flat winner Pip's Dream. Selection: POTTER'S GALE

1.30 SPRUCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,670

1 400-0 CHARTER LANE (24) (Mrs A Emanuel) Mrs L Jewell 6 10 12 ...D Leahy
2 056-5P4 CURRAGH PETER (19) (David Bickerton) Mrs P Bickerton 9 10 12 ...Guy Lewis (3)
3 14-F333 DJAIS (FR) (18) (Julian Duncan) J Jenkins 7 10 12 ...G Bradley
4 4-2U LOCH GARMAN HOTEL (18) (Don Hall) P Dalton 7 10 12 ...T Eley
5 0-3 RAMSTOWN LAD (23) (Mrs Christine Dowest) K Bailey 7 10 12 ...J Osborne
6 2133-23 SLINGSBY (18) (Simon Harrap Partnership) N Gaselee 6 10 12 ...A Thornton
7 2P2-F THE BOOLEY HOUSE (9) (Booley Bunch-Four Seasons Racing) V Soane 6 10 12 ...B Powell
8 000P- TYPHOON (244) (The Casbury Ring) Mark Campion 6 10 12 ...M Sherratt
9 /20-3U2 BRIDEPARK ROSE (20) (Tom Segrue) P Rachens 8 10 7 ...S Fox
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Slingsby, 9-4 Ramstown Lad, 7-1 The Booley House, Loch Garman Hotel, 8-1 Djais, 12-1 Bridepark Rose, 16-1 Curragh Peter, 33-1 others
1995: Challenger Du Luc (Fr) 5 11 0 D Bridgwater 4-6 (M Pipe) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
Slingsby just missed out to Brazil Or Bust over two miles at Warwick on his chasing debut and put up another solid performance when third behind the subsequent winner Mister Drum and Wee Windy over this distance at Huntingdon 15 days ago. He did not quite see out the trip but has faster ground in his favour this time. This course, however, places more emphasis on stamina than Huntingdon and RAMSTOWN LAD may have the advantage. Ramstown Lad won a point-to-point in Ireland in the spring of last year and was not at his best when tailed off on his only start over hurdles in this country last season. The seven-year-old would have finished a lot closer behind the subsequent winner Mammy's Choice at Plumpton (2m 5f, good to soft) last month on his first attempt over fences if he had not almost fallen at the second last. Having had so little racing, the chances are he will come on appreciably for the run and his point-to-point win came on faster ground. The Booley House won his only start in a point-to-point in Ireland in 1995 and was twice run out of it in decent novices' chases at Nottingham last season. He has changed stables and fallen on his only outing this season but has every chance on those Nottingham runs. Loch Garman Hotel, yet another Irish point-to-point winner, was left to chase home Don Du Cadran at Uttoxeter. While he will be a lot better for the experience, it will take a fair bit of improvement on that before he could be considered. That also applies to Djais, who brought up the rear behind On So Risky at Ascot on his chasing debut, but he at least was a fair hurdler. Selection: RAMSTOWN LAD

2.00 CHESTNUT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,600 added 2m Penalty Value £2,012

1 545045- BEECHFIELD FLYER (210) (Mrs M Robertson) W Clay 5 10 12 ...G Tormey
2 53 FASTINI GOLD (22) (G A Summers) M Usher 4 10 12 ...F Leahy
3 40224 FLEET CADET (55) (Sir John Swaine) M Pipe 5 10 12 ...G Supple V
4 2-20323 PARISH WALK (5) (Anthony White) K Drewry 5 10 12 ...B Grattan
5 465U53 FENIAN COURT (28) (Miss J Bower) Miss J Bower 5 10 7 ...K Gaule
6 P0 PERSIAN BUTTERFLY (9) (David Hallums) R Stronge 4 10 7 ...Michael Brennan
7 00- ROSALEE ROYALE (284) (Mrs O C Foster) J Long 4 10 7 ...G Hogan
8 6/F-0 SCOTTISH PARK (55) (Martin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 7 10 7 ...B Moore (5)
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Fenian Court, 11-4 Fleet Cadet, 7-2 Parish Walk, 4-1 Fastini Gold, 8-1 Persian Butterfly, 12-1 Beechfield Flyer, 14-1 others
1995: Sheecky 4 10 9 M W Martin 16-1 (B McMahon) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE
PARISH WALK had a lot of use made of him and did not get home over Towcester's stiff 2m 5f in October. Similar tactics also let him down over 2m 3f 110yd at Market Rasen on Friday but they could well succeed at today's stiff two miles. Fenian Court kept on to take third in a weakish-looking maiden at Ayr last time out. That is reasonable form in comparison with most of the others and a repeat of it would give her every chance. Today's better ground will suit Fastini Gold far more than the testing conditions at Newton Abbot last time. All the same, Fleet Cadet's performances in the West country earlier in the season offer more hope, while stablemate Scottish Park could not be ruled out on her Flat form. Selection: PARISH WALK

2.30 SYCAMORE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3m Penalty Value £4,450

1 121111 IMPERIAL VINTAGE (15) (CD) (David M Williams) Miss Venetia Williams 6 11 10 ...N Williamson
2 223-122 PHILIP'S WOODY (24) (K G Knox) N Henderson 8 11 10 ...J R Kavanagh
3 5340-P3 WELL BRIEFED (12) (D) (Peter Jones) R Buckler 9 11 9 ...B Powell
4 10P0-11 LORD OF THE WEST (9) (D) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) J J O'Neill 7 10 13 (6ex) ...A Maguire
5 265P5-2 THE SHY PADRE (20) (Mike Bateman and Dennis Collard) Mrs J Pitman 7 10 0 ...W Marston
– 5 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: The Shy Padre 9st 13lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Imperial Vintage, 3-1 Philip's Woody, 7-2 Lord of The West, 9-2 Well Briefed, 8-1 The Shy Padre
1995: Romany Creek 6 11 4 A P McCoy 7-2 (G B Balding) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE
LORD OF THE WEST, a virtual novice up against experienced handicappers in Well Briefed and Philip's Woody, could be ready for the step up in grade. This former point-to-point winner looks the more finished article in his second attempt at chasing after last season's disasters. He proved very game in getting up to beat previous winner Eastern River under a big weight at Worcester last time and receives weight on this occasion. Well Briefed has won over three miles, even though two and a half seems more his trip. It was over that distance at Newbury 12 days ago that he was last of the three finishers behind Golden Spinner, though not before giving a good account. The nine-year-old would be hard to beat on his best form. Philip's Woody should go well. He was placed for the umpteenth consecutive time when failing by quite some way to give Time Enough 10lb at Cheltenham last month and it may be that the handicapper has him at present as he seems weighted right up to his best. Imperial Vintage has six wins from seven starts to his name this season. The key is this faster ground and if he can get away with any mistakes, which he has in his more recent races, this front-runner is going to be difficult to peg back on only a 5lb higher mark than his easy win here last month. Selection: LORD OF THE WEST

3.00 BIRCH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,028

1 1541-32 LORD MCMURROUGH (25) (J Neville) J Neville 6 12 0 ...R Farrant
2 225210/- DIWALI DANCER (842) (D) (B E Case) M Pipe 6 12 0 ...A P McCoy
3 04-12P2 KALASADI (USA) (14) (G A Libson) V Soane 5 11 10 ...M Richards B
4 0/25210- GARAIYBA (418) (Dunstalk Racing Club) D Nicholson 5 11 0 ...A Maguire
5 14- WASSL STREET (203) (D) (B Leatherday) K Morgan 4 10 13 ...N Williamson
6 11/242-P ROYAL CITIZEN (25) (D) (John F Bottomley) J Bottomley 7 10 12 ...G Bradley
7 21/0P/-P CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN (146) (Baskerville Racing Club) R Brotherton 8 10 0 ...L Harvey
8 600545- VISCOUNT TULLY (208) (C F C Jackson) C Jackson 11 10 0 ...Miss S Jackson
– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Captain My Captain 9st 12lb, Viscount Tully 9st 10lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Lord McMurrough, 3-1 Garaiyba, 7-2 Kalasadi, 5-1 Wassl Street, 7-1 Diwali Dancer, 10-1 Royal Citizen, 20-1 others
1995: Plunder Bay (USA) 4 11 12 M A Fitzgerald 8-1 (N Henderson) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE
LORD McMURROUGH'S third behind Chai-Yo and Saint Ciel at Haydock first time out this season has proved to be solid, reliable form and he was trying to concede 8lb to a decent mare in Henrietta Howard at Huntingdon last time. Both those races were at the minimum two miles off today's official handicap rating of 110. Last season he won over a furlong short of this trip at Taunton in addition to Exeter's stiff two and a quarter miles and today's longer distance must be in his best interest. Garaiyba has won four times on the Flat in Ireland since her last run over hurdles almost 14 months ago and could be thrown in on her first outing in this country. Any money for her would certainly suggest that end, with three of those wins being at two miles, today's trip of two and a half seems ideal. Wassl Street was not able to repeat his runaway Perth win on soft ground last season on Worcester's sounder surface next time. He has not been out in seven months and Kalasadi's runs with Victor Tango at Fontwell and the easy winner Copper Boy at Windsor give him a better chance. Selection: LORD McMURROUGH

3.30 OAK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m Penalty Value £2,544

1 41154-4 CAWARRA BOY (15) (CD) (Mrs Margaret Kenyon Holden) C James 8 11 10 ...Mr E James
2 4101-21 CIRCUS LINE (11) (D) (Mrs P A H Hartley) M W Easterby 5 11 8 ...M A Fitzgerald
3 0510- EURO SINGER (225) (D) (Syndicate From Hell) P Webber 4 11 3 ...J Osborne
4 51546P- ERLKING (215) (D) (The Ridgeway Ramblers) S Mellor 5 11 1 ...N Mann
5 401232- SHEPHERDS REST (210) (D) (The Odd Dozen) S Mellor 4 11 0 ...S Hearn (7)
6 51124-6 KADARI (11) (D) (H Clewlow) W Clay 7 10 11 ...A Thornton
7 04355-3 KELLY MAC (25) (D) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 6 10 9 ...C Llewellyn
8 00/4300- ALASKAN HEIR (298) (CD) (J Burton) A Streeter 5 10 4 ...T Eley
9 1234/-3 KINTAVI (12) (D) (S Taberner) T Donnelly 6 10 1 ...B Hogan (5)
10 10P30- SHEECKY (248) (CD) (Mrs Angela Beard) B McMahon 5 10 0 ...D Bridgwater
– 10 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Sheecky 9st 6lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Circus Line, 7-2 Cawarra Boy, 7-1 Euro Singer, Kelly Mac, 15-2 Shepherds Rest, 8-1 Kintavi, 10-1 Erlking, 14-1 others
1995: Fair And Fancy (Fr) 4 11 9 Richard Guest 5-1 (Miss M Milligan) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE
If CIRCUS LINE ever learns to jump fluently, he would be very difficult to peg back in races of this nature. He has not done too badly, however, making all at Newcastle (twice) and Hexham. He is evidently suited by a stiff course and may be able to get away from his field, rather as he did when making the most of the 21lb he was receiving from Done Well at Newcastle 11 days ago. Cawarra Boy went on to win at Hereford and over today's course and distance after his opening run last season and he went well for a long way behind Teinein at Huntingdon on his return last month. With Circus Line most likely to go off in front, the race could be run to suit him and a repeat of last season is not out of the question. He is only 6lb higher than his win here. Kelly Mac won on the soft at Windsor last season and was touched off by Supermack and the subsequent winner Dontdressfordinner on faster ground there on his comeback last month. He is not without hope on this easier surface. Selection: CIRCUS LINE

HEXHAM

HYPERION
12.50 Belle Rose 1.20 Mamica 1.50 Willy Star 2.20 Anabranch 2.50 Daring Past 3.20 Young Kenny

GOING: Good.
Left-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 250yd.
Course is on minor road 2m south of Hexham. Signposted from town. Hexham station 2m. ADMISSION: Club £8; Paddock £6 (OAPs £4). CAR PARK: Free.

SIS | RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ar Aghaidh Abhaile (3.20).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Seeking Gold (1.20) has been sent 117 miles by J Barclay from Leslie, Fife; Cloutoura (3.20) sent 106 miles by Mrs C Coward from Thorganby, North Yorkshire; Meadowleck (1.50) sent 103 miles by W Young from Carluke, Strathclyde; Robsera (1.50) sent 96 miles by J J Quinn from Settrington, North Yorkshire.

12.50 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 added 3m

1 00P-F4P FLAT TOP (4) (CD) M W Easterby 5 11 13 ...Mr M Watson (7)
2 2353-23 SCARBA (57) (C) J Jefferson 8 11 13 ...Mr R Hale (5)
3 0/0004-5 IFALLELSEFAILS (11) (C) L Lungo 8 11 12 ...Mr M H Naughton (5)
4 0/6/31- GYMCRAK CYRANO (380) N Chamberlain 7 11 8 ...Miss C Metcalfe (7)
5 /000P1- KINGS LANE (197) (C) J Dun 7 11 5 ...Mr C Bonner (5)
6 PP5P-11 BELLE ROSE (33) (C) G Richards 6 11 3 ...Mr G Elliott (7)
7 1/00P31- DAISY DAYS (197) (C) J Howard Johnson 6 11 2 ...Mr R Thornton (5)
8 323223 BALLINDOO (18) (D) R Amson 7 11 1 ...Mr R Amson (7)
9 PP0/P0-3 HUDSON BAY TRADER (41) P Beaumont 9 10 11 ...Miss P Robson (5)
10 04/433-5 MARDOOD (15) S Clark 11 10 8 ...Miss R Clark (7)
11 0000-66 HELENS BAY (29) V Thompson 8 10 7 ...Mr M Thompson (5)
12 4BP5-60 COOL STEEL (11) Mrs J Brown 4 10 6 ...Miss J Eastwood (7)
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Belle Rose, 4-1 Scarba, 6-1 Daisy Days, 8-1 Ifallelsefails, 10-1 Flat Top, Hudson Bay Trader, 12-1 others

1.20 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f

1 634-324 MONYMOSS (12) Mrs S Smith 7 11 11 ...Richard Guest
2 5013/P-3 SLOTAMATIQUE (19) G Richards 7 11 8 ...A Dobbin
3 310 CADER IDRIS (14) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 0 ...P Niven
4 350-141 SEEKING GOLD (9) (D) J Barclay 7 11 0 (7ex) ...B Storey
5 423-424 BOLD ACCOUNT (25) G Moore 6 10 13 ...N Bentley
6 1005-03 SHALLOW RIVER (12) R Collins 5 10 12 ...Mr R Thornton (5)
7 0402P-2 MAMICA (14) M Dods 6 10 8 ...R Supple
8 U0566-0 DISTILLERY HILL (6) V Thompson 8 10 2 ...Mr M Thompson
9 40U05-4 GOLD PIGEON (12) B Rothwell 7 10 0 ...G Cahill
10 304430- AVOWHAT (301) J J O'Neill 6 10 0 ...R McGrath (5)
11 00/FPPP- DESPERATE DAYS (261) F Kirby 7 10 0 ...W Dwan
12 0000- NOOSA SOUND (227) L Lungo 6 10 0 ...B Harding
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Desperate Days, Noosa Sound 9st 4lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Slotamatique, 5-1 Monymoss, Mamica, 6-1 Bold Account, 8-1 Seeking Gold, Cader Idris, 14-1 Shallow River, 16-1 others

1.50 BUCHANAN ALES NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,600 added 2m

1 121 WILLY STAR (BEL) (12) (D) Mrs S Smith 6 11 12 ...Richard Guest
2 0-16240 SIMAND (12) (D) G Moore 4 11 0 ...J Callaghan
3 BLOW DRY Martyn Wane 6 10 12 ...P Niven
4 LAST ROUNDUP C Thornton 4 10 12 ...M Foster
5 0500-30 OVER STATED (7) P Cheesbrough 6 10 12 ...G F Ryan (5)
6 0-0 ROADWAY JOKER (25) M Barnes 5 10 12 ...S Taylor (5)
7 242463 ROBSERA (12) J Quinn 5 10 12 ...R Garritty
8 TAJAR M Dods 4 10 12 ...R Supple
9 P/-B ABOUT MIDNIGHT (18) F Murtagh 7 10 7 ...A Dobbin
10 24 CANONBIEBOTHERED (33) L Lungo 5 10 7 ...F Perratt
11 5204/- FIRST IN THE FIELD (898) N Mason 5 10 7 ...S Haworth (7)
12 P00F-00 MEADOWLECK (28) W Young 7 10 7 ...B Storey
13 00 MEESONETTE (8) B Ellison 4 10 7 ...G Cahill
14 500P0-0 MY MISSILE (28) R Cockburn 6 10 7 ...L O'Hara
15 0 RINGROSE (18) V Thompson 7 10 7 ...Mr M Thompson
16 500 SAFETY TIP (8) W Storey 4 10 7 ...R McGrath (5)
17 50-5 THE FINAL SPARK (12) G Richards 5 10 7 ...B Harding
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Willy Star, 5-1 Canonbiebothered, 7-1 Blow Dry, 8-1 Simand, Last Roundup, Robsera, 10-1 The Final Spark, 12-1 others

2.20 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m

1 2-52562 DONE WELL (11) (D) P Monteith 4 11 13 ...A Dobbin
2 06/11-40 MASTER HYDE (11) (CD) W Storey 7 11 4 ...M Moloney
3 232-643 SHINING EDGE (11) (D) T Easterby 4 11 2 ...R Garritty
4 21F321 ANABRANCH (14) (CD) J Jefferson 5 11 1 ...M Newton (7)
5 2131-43 COLORFUL AMBITION (5) Mrs A Swinbank 6 11 0 ...J Railton
6 321F4P- DUKE OF PERTH (288) (CD) J Howard Johnson 5 10 0 ...G Cahill
– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Duke Of Perth 9st 12lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Done Well, 7-2 Shining Edge, 4-1 Anabranch, 5-1 Colorful Ambition, 6-1 Master Hyde, 7-1 Duke of Perth

2.50 BORDER COUNTIES INSURANCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 110yds

1 4F4 BONNY JOHNNY (14) D Moffatt 6 10 12 ...D J Moffatt
2 FP6- CUSH SUPREME (264) Martin Todhunter 7 10 12 ...B Harding
3 R53301/- DARING PAST (900) M Hammond 6 10 12 ...R Garritty
4 30084-5 DARK BUOY (14) B Mactaggart 7 10 12 ...B Storey
5 0-0534U FINGERHILL (11) V Thompson 7 10 12 ...Mr M Thompson
6 43544-0 GRAND AS OWT (26) D McCune 6 10 12 ...K Johnson
7 2/5440-5 TARGET LINE (7) Mrs S Smith 6 10 12 ...R Wilkinson (7)
8 5/-64606 WEE WIZARD (14) M Barnes 7 10 12 ...S Taylor (5)
9 00-P434 AMBER HOLLY (48) J Dixon 7 10 7 ...F Perratt
10 0506-3P CHARLISTIONA (7) J Dodds 5 10 7 ...S Melrose (7)
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Daring Past, 5-1 Dark Buoy, 7-1 Bonny Johnny, 8-1 Target Line, Amber Holly, 10-1 Fingerhill, Wee Wizard, 12-1 others

3.20 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m

1 P6-1234 CROFTON LAKE (41) (CD) (BF) J Dixon 8 11 5 ...F Perratt
2 006-1 PHARMISTICE (9) Mrs A Swinbank 5 11 5 ...J Supple
3 B1-0FU3 YOUNG KENNY (18) P Beaumont 5 11 5 ...R Supple
4 55634-1 CLARE MAID (26) G Richards 7 11 0 ...A Dobbin
5 14/60-0 ADIB (11) G Moore 6 10 12 ...N Bentley
6 00 AR AGHAIDH ABHAILE (7) Miss M Milligan 5 10 12 B Cahill B
7 /6/-5603 BLANC SEING (FR) (29) J Swiers 9 10 12 ...Mr S Swiers B
8 0/6/F-PP BOLD'N (4) N Mason 9 10 12 ...S Haworth (7)
9 04-0 BORIS BROOK (14) R Allen 5 10 12 ...S Melrose (7)
10 PU5P55- CARNMONEY (197) J Sisterson 8 10 12 ...T Reed
11 CLONTOURA Mrs C Coward 8 10 12 ...P Midgley (5)
12 0400/-0 KENTUCKY GOLD (12) Mrs L Williamson 7 10 12 ...L O'Hara
13 MEDERIC D Forster 8 10 12 ...Richard Guest
14 035R-58 MENSHAAR (4) L Lungo 4 10 12 ...R Garritty
15 6- RAINING STAIRS (279) G Richards 5 10 12 ...B Harding
16 605-P50 RUBER (11) R Thompson 9 10 12 ...B Storey
17 PP/20/-0 WOODSTOCK LODGE (9) V Thompson 8 10 12 ...Mr M Thompson
18 4/20P6-P ESTABLISH (187) J Dodds 8 10 7 ...K Johnson
– 18 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Clare Maid, 4-1 Pharmistice, 6-1 Raining Stairs, 8-1 Young Kenny, Crofton Lake, 12-1 Blanc Seing, 16-1 Adib, 20-1 others

LINGFIELD

HYPERION
12.10 Our Shades 12.40 Kingchip Boy 1.10 Raindeer Quest 1.40 Mr Nevermind 2.10 Chief Predator 2.40 Matthias Mystique 3.10 Millroy 3.40 Statistician

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: 1m – outside; remainder – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.
Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £13, Family Enclosure £9. CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder free.

SIS | RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Grasshopper (12.10), The Frisky Farmer (12.40), Greenwich Fore (visor, 2.10), Neon Deion (visor, 2.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Matthias Mystique (2.40) won at Lingfield on Thursday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Aspecto Lad (2.10) & Cee-N-K (2.10) have been sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yorkshire; Indiahra (12.40), Raindeer Quest (1.10), Greek Night Out (2.40), Havana Heights (2.40) & The Barnsley Belle (3.40) sent 258 miles by J L Eyre from Sutton Bank, North Yorkshire; Rock The Casbah (2.10) sent 246 miles by J Hetherton from Malton, North Yorkshire; Spencer's Revenge (12.10) sent 243 miles by N Tinkler from Langton, North Yorkshire.

12.10 TOINHA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,700 1m (AW)

1 434140 WAIKIKI BEACH (116) (CD) G L Moore 5 9 7 ...S Whitworth 6
2 063000 SLIP JIG (34) R Hannon 3 9 2 ...R Perham 8
3 5 AIRBORNE HARRIS (249) A Bailey 3 8 12 ...S Sanders 10
4 000580 KIROV PROTEGE (6) (D) Mrs L Jewell 4 8 9 ...Darren Williams (7) 7
5 365156 SPENCER'S REVENGE (19) (CD) (BF) N Tinkler 7 8 9 ...Dean McKeown 9 B
6 GRASSHOPPER J Spearing 3 8 8 ...S Drowne 12 B
7 52000-0 BON SECRET (34) (C) T J Naughton 4 8 7 ...D Holland 3
8 500003 OUR SHADEE (15) (C) K Ivory 6 8 7 ...G Duffield 1 V
9 000000 VANBOROUGH LAD (22) (D) M Bolton 7 8 5 ...J Quinn 2
10 KLOSTERS R Hodges 4 8 4 ...P P Murphy (5) 11
11 0 MAD ALEX (26) M Haynes 3 8 4 ...A Daly (5) 4
12 005200 CHALKY DANCER (29) H Collingridge 4 8 3 ...F Lynch (3) 5
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Waikiki Beach, 5-1 Slip Jig, 6-1 Airborne Harris, Spencer's Revenge, 7-1 Our Shades, 8-1 Bon Secret, Vanborough Lad, 12-1 others.

12.40 LADBROKE TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,700 7f (AW)

1 302044 STAR TALENT (111) (CD) Miss Gay Kelleway 5 10 0 ...D Holland 10
2 050352 KINGCHIP BOY (15) (C) (D) M Ryan 7 9 12 ...A Clark 3 V
3 3-05462 BAGSHOT (16) (D) (BF) G L Moore 5 9 11 ...S Whitworth 6
4 043460 OBERONS BOY (102) (D) S Dow 3 9 6 ...A Daly (5) 5
5 000404 MISRY BAY (34) D Cosgrove 3 9 3 ...D R McCabe 1
6 311001 APOLLO RED (28) (CD) A Moore 7 9 2 ...Candy Morris 12
7 603035 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE (64) (CD) K Ivory 3 9 0 ...D Biggs 7 B
8 335500 THE FRISKY FARMER (12) W Turner 3 8 13 ...T Sprake 8 B
9 000003 BEN GUNN (19) (D) P Walwyn 4 8 12 ...G Duffield 2
10 000084 SAMSOLOM (6) (CD) P Howling 8 8 8 ...Dean McKeown 9
11 040321 INDIAHRA (23) J L Eyre 5 8 5 ...R Lappin 4 V
12 450006 BARGASH (67) (D) P Evans 4 8 0 ...D Wright 11
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Kingchip Boy, 9-2 Star Talent, 7-1 Apollo Red, Samsolom, 8-1 Indiahra, Bagshot, 10-1 others

1.10 MARIA AMATEURS HANDICAP STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 1m 2f (AW)

1 101400 AUTUMN COVER (34) P Hedger 4 12 0 ...Mr T McCarthy 10
2 110006 GOLD BLADE (12) (CD) J Pearce 7 11 9 ...Mrs L Pearce 3
3 010054 YOUR MOST WELCOME (22) (CD) D Sasse Davis 5 11 9 ...Miss J Allison 4 B
4 401041 MONTONE (15) (C) J Jenkins 6 11 4 ...Dr M Mannish 5 V
5 400122 ANGEL FACE (4) (CD) (BF) P Evans 3 11 3 ...Mr A Evans (7) 6
6 042064 MIMOSA (22) S Dow 3 11 1 ...Miss Y Haynes 14
7 000110 ARZANI (22) (CD) (BF) D Cosgrove 5 10 13 ...Miss E Johnson Houghton 2
8 000800 DANCING JACK (8) (C) J Bridger 3 10 12 Mr D Bridger (7) 11
9 030234 RASAYEL (8) (D) P Evans 6 10 1 ...Mr W McLaughlin (4) 1
10 00855 AREISH (34) J Fitch-Heyes 3 10 0 ...Mr P Scott 13 B
11 402163 DONT DROP BOMBS (6) (C) (D) D Thom 7 9 12 ...Miss J Feilden 7 V
12 4/-0000 SAFETY (137) (C) J White 9 9 10 ...Mr J Crowley (7) 6 B
13 234005 RAINDEER QUEST (23) J L Eyre 4 9 7 ...Miss Diana Jones 9
14 000004 QUEENS STROLLER (30) R Peacock 5 9 7 ...Mrs C Peacock (7) 12
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Montone, 5-1 Angel Face, 6-1 Your Most Welcome, 7-1 Mimosa, 10-1 Gold Blade, Rasayel, Arzani, 14-1 others

1.40 TOINHA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,700 1m (AW)

1 200131 MR NEVERMIND (34) (CD) G L Moore 6 9 7 ...S Whitworth 6
2 420366 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (102) (CD) T Casey 4 9 3 ...S Sanders 2
3 205001 JO MAXIMUS (99) S Dow 4 8 13 ...A Daly (5) 9
4 512020- A MILLION WATTS (580) (D) G McCourt 5 8 9 ...A Clark 5
5 401000 MOGIN (15) T J Naughton 3 8 5 ...T Sprake 10
6 000006 SARUM (6) (CD) J Long 10 8 5 ...Leesa Long 8
7 BROUGHTONS RELISH W Musson 3 8 3 ...D R McCabe 3
8 000040 MEDIATE (85) (C) A Hide 4 8 3 ...Jo Hunnam (7) 1
9 500040 LAHIK (15) K Ivory 3 8 2 ...N Adams 11
10 630000 SHERWOOD (6) K Ivory 3 7 13 ...Martin Dwyer (5) 12
11 0/0000-0 KAJOSTAR (16) S Campion 6 7 12 ...J Quinn 7
12 0-6 ZELAYA (34) G L Moore 3 7 12 ...F Norton 4
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Mr Nevermind, 4-1 Jo Maximus, 6-1 Battleship Bruce, 7-1 A Million Watts, 8-1 Zelaya, Mediate, Kajostar, 16-1 others

2.10 SELIA NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,750 2YO 1m (AW)

1 04262 CEE-N-K (23) (BF) M Johnston 9 7 ...D Holland 3
2 230611 HELLO DOLLY (16) (D) K Burke 9 4 ...D Sweeney (7) 5
3 004034 GREENWICH FORE (15) (BF) T Mills 9 3 ...S Sanders 9 V
4 0003 CHIEF PREDATOR (27) R Hannon 9 2 ...R Perham 4
5 405403 MASTERSTROKE (27) B Meehan 8 12 ...M Tebbutt 10
6 01166 BARNWOOD CRACKERS (102) (BF) Miss Gay Kelleway 8 8 ...G Duffield 2 E
7 00056 MOTCOMBS CLUB (26) N Callaghan 8 6 ...J Quinn 8
8 0003 ASPECTO LAD (12) M Johnston 8 3 ...N Adams 1
9 400060 NEON DEION (39) S Williams 7 11 ...Darren Williams (7) 6 V
10 40000 ROCK THE CASBAH (12) J Hetherton 7 10 ...N Carlisle 7
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Hello Dolly, 11-4 Chief Predator, 6-1 Cee-N-K, 7-1 Greenwich Fore, 8-1 Masterstroke, Motcombs Club, 10-1 Aspecto Lad, 12-1 others

2.40 COMMERCIAL CEILING FACTORS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 2m (AW)

1 284016 GUEST ALLIANCE (16) (CD) A Moore 4 10 0 Candy Morris 12
2 300622 COLERIDGE (23) (CD) J Sheehan 8 9 13 ...A Clark 1 B
3 200421 COMPASS POINTER (16) J Eustace 3 9 11 Martin Dwyer (5) 3
4 045552 ANGLESEY SEA VIEW (34) (D) A Bailey 7 9 10 ...G Faulkner (5) 5
5 454040 CHOCOLATE ICE (75) R O'Sullivan 3 9 6 ...G Duffield 10
6 026231 MATTHIAS MYSTIQUE (6) (CD) Miss B Sanders 3 9 6 (5ex) ...S Sanders 7
7 015306 GREEK NIGHT OUT (19) (D) J L Eyre 5 9 1 ...R Lappin 11
8 331054 BROUGHTONS FORMULA (15) (C) (D) W Musson 6 9 1 ...D R McCabe 2 B
9 423063 WOTTASHAMBLES (118) (CD) L Montague Hall 5 8 8 ...D Holland 8
10 230400 STRAT'S LEGACY (15) (C) D Arbuthnot 9 8 4 ...J Quinn 9
11 041005 HAVANA HEIGHTS (25) J L Eyre 3 8 2 ...D Wright 4
12 0003 AYDIGO (30) J Pearce 3 7 10 ...F Norton 6
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Aydigo 7st 9lb.
BETTING: 7-2 Coleridge, 4-1 Guest Alliance, 9-2 Compass Pointer, 5-1 Anglesey Sea View, 6-1 Matthias Mystique, 10-1 Broughtons Formula, 12-1 Wottashambles, 20-1 others

3.10 SELMA MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 2YO 7f (AW)

1 436200 BOLD SPRING (41) R Hannon 9 0 ...R Perham 6
2 403232 CASTLES BURNING (15) C Cyzer 9 0 ...A Clark 8
3 636002 MILLROY (22) P Kelleway 9 0 ...M Wigham 4
4 0 MOGUL (32) N Graham 9 0 ...A McGlone 3
5 0 BUZZBY BABE (76) A Foster 8 9 ...T Sprake 5
6 0 SAEKO-BEAUTY (18) Sir Mark Prescott 8 9 ...G Duffield 2
7 ..00 SHE'S ELECTRIC (6) J Bridger 8 9 ...F Norton 7
8 020220 WINDBORN (44) C Allen 8 9 ...Martin Dwyer (5) 1
– 8 declared –

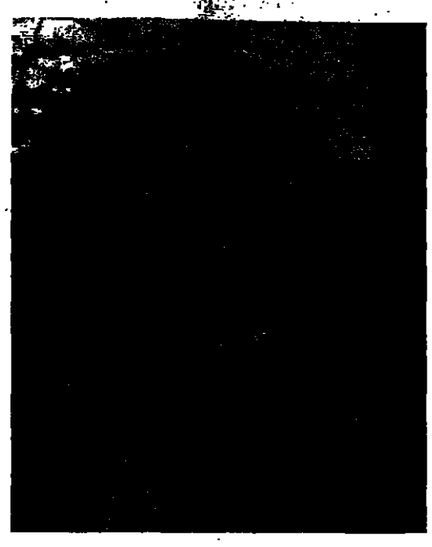
BETTING: 5-4 Millroy, 9-4 Castles Burning, 3-1 Bold Spring, 10-1 Windborn, 14-1 Saeko-Beauty, 16-1 Buzzby Babe, 25-1 others

3.40 LADBROKE TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,700 7f (AW)

1 250266 GREATEST (6) (CD) Miss Gay Kelleway 5 10 0 ...D Holland 9 B
2 6-14020 WAYPOINT (41) (CD) R Charlton 3 10 0 ...T Sprake 2
3 335036 PERILOUS PLIGHT (27) (CD) Mrs L Stubbs 5 9 9 ...S Whitworth 1
4 204320 STATISTICIAN (19) John Berry 4 9 5 ...G Duffield 6 B
5 320221 THE BARNSLEY BELLE (12) (D) J L Eyre 3 8 13 ...R Lappin 4
6 550634 HAWAII STORM (FR) (15) (CD) D Sasse Davis 8 8 8 ...P McCabe (5) 12
7 452400 JAAZIM (48) (C) (D) M Madgwick 6 8 4 ...A Clark 7
8 000505 MORNING SURPRISE (51) A Jarvis 3 8 4 ...S Drowne 10
9 304068 POLAR REFRAIN (9) C Dwyer 3 8 2 ...Jo Hunnam (7) 5
10 180005 DARK MENACE (6) E Wheeler 4 8 1 ...A Daly (5) 8 B
11 000040 AL SHAATI (FR) (16) (C) (BF) R O'Sullivan 6 7 10 ...J Quinn 3
12 000004 LOGIE PERT LAD (6) J Bridger 4 7 10 ...F Norton 11
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Al Shaati 7st 4lb, Logie Pert Lad 7st 2lb.
BETTING: 7-2 The Barnsley Belle, 6-1 Greatest, Statistician, 7-1 Hawaii Storm, 8-1 Perilous Plight, Dark Menace, 10-1 Waypoint, 12-1 others

Pullovers? Ballooning? Beard Grooming? Whatever you're interested in we'll help you find it



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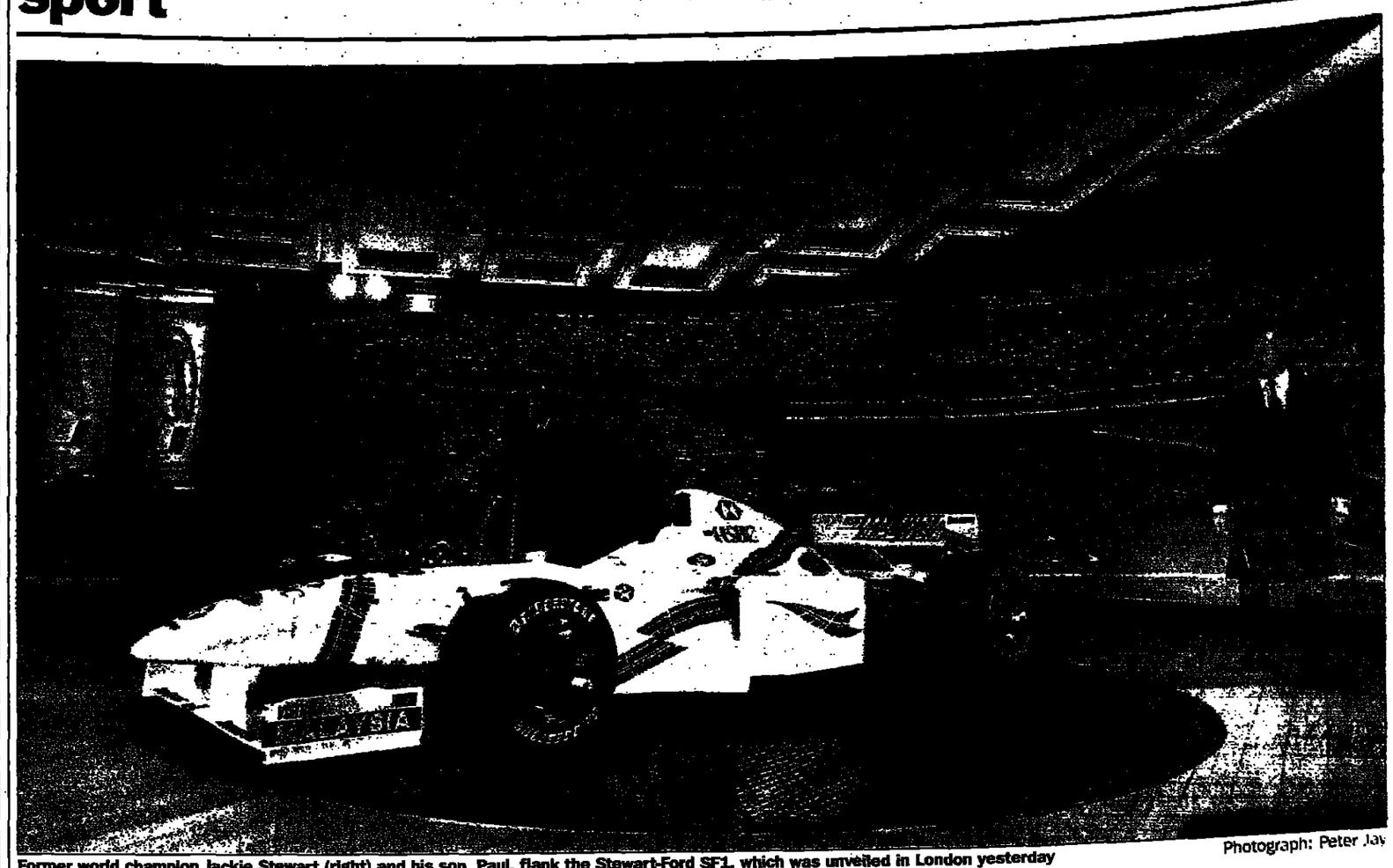


Former world champion Jackie Stewart (right) and his son, Paul, flank the Stewart-Ford SF1, which was unveiled in London yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

Bonny birth of Stewart's new car

Jackie Stewart's Formula One debutants have designed and manufactured their first car in nine months. **Derick Allsop** reports

The tartan and a lone piper heralded a new Stewart period in Formula One, but the whiff of heather and tradition was wafted away with the unveiling of a sleek, white Ford-powered car yesterday.

Claymores and Bravehearts belong to another age, as Jackie Stewart will testify, and his first campaign as a team boss rather than a driver will be fought with the latest product of the computer era.

The Stewart-Ford SF1, on show in London's Grosvenor Square yesterday, has been just nine months in the designing and making, a technical triumph which may be a sign of achievements to come.

"The task of creating a new Formula One car from scratch in nine months is a formidable one," said the man who won the world championship three times, in 1969, 1971 and 1973. "To the best of my knowledge, this is the first Formula One car to have been designed by computer from the outset." His son, Paul, managing director of the team, was even more fulsome. "In many ways it has been nothing short of a miracle," he said.

"It has been an enormous challenge to plan the timetable, keep to the budget and assemble so much in a relatively short period of time. Only the best is good enough in Formula One and we are confident we are reaching that benchmark."

Stewart Snr warned against any great expectations for the new team. "I would like to win one championship point – if we got more than that I would be thrilled," he said. "Top-10 finishes and top-10 qualifying in our first year would be pretty impressive. Not many teams have ever done that."

The clan's dream of running a grand prix operation drew closer with every success they attained in the lower formulae in the shape of Paul Stewart Racing and became a reality with the signing of a £20m, five-year works deal with the engine manufacturers Ford.

Then came the task of recruiting personnel capable of excelling at this level, luring competitive drivers and attracting the necessary sponsorship to fund a £20m budget for the first season. Among the backing is a £5m-a-year agreement with the HKSB financial corporation and Malaysian Government.

Alan Jenkins, the technical director, said: "We started literally with an empty room. It was important to get key staff on board and we have attracted many talented people.

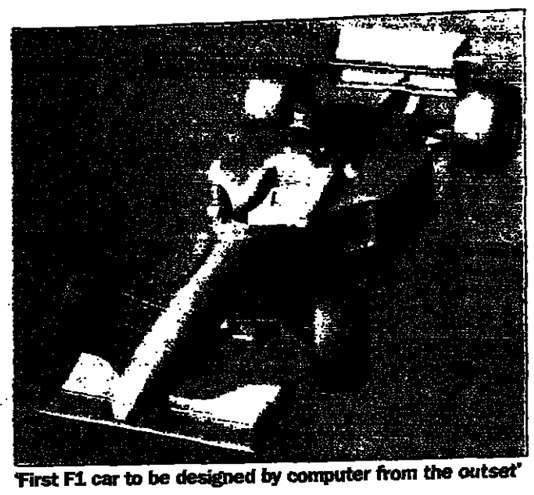
"Unlike the established teams in Formula One, we did not have an existing car to provide us with a point of reference, but that can also be viewed as an advantage since you are able to start with a clear computer screen.

"It was inevitable that we could not hone the design details straight away because of unknown variables such as tyre choice and driver preferences. Nonetheless, we were able to meet our schedule."

Stewart, whose team are to use Bridgestone tyres, will shortly send his drivers, Brazil's Rubens Barrichello and the Dane, Jan Magnussen, testing in preparation for the new world championship season, which opens with the Australian Grand Prix, in Melbourne, on 9 March.

A five-year target to compete for the championship has been set, but there is another dimension to the venture. "This is more than motor racing to me," Stewart said. "It's also do with the Stewart family. When I retired from racing in 1973, what we are doing today would have been, for me, not even a glimpse of what was on the horizon.

"I have been very fortunate. Motor racing has been my life and the sport has blessed me and my family with privilege, material benefits and opportunities to fulfil so many dreams."



'First F1 car to be designed by computer from the outset'

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS: Folklore and fame on the fairways perused by **Andy Farrell**

Secrets and lies about the Garbo of golf

Golf instruction books have a tendency towards hyperbole in their titles – *Learn Golf in a Weekend* and *Break 100 in 28 Days* are the preposterous claims. One book, actually a biography, could claim to help you win the US Open. A week before Steve Jones did just that, a friend sent him a copy of *Hogan* (Rutledge Hill Press, £16.95, from Sportspages). "When I started reading it," Jones said, "I couldn't put it down."

There are fewer books about Ben Hogan than any other of the great players of the game but his is an inspiring story. Curt Sampson does a fine job of slicing through the myth and misinformation that surrounds the Garbo of golf, much of it if not encouraged then certainly not denied or corrected by the man himself during his career.

The outline of the story centres on the suicide of his father when Ben was nine years old, his work ethic on the practice range, the car crash in 1949 in which he almost died and his monumental 1953 season in which he won the three majors he entered including the Open at Carnoustie. But the detail is terrific, too. At Oakland Hills in 1951, Hogan had just won his third US Open when he was congratulated by Clayton Heafner, his main last-round challenger, who finished tied for second two shots back.

"Thanks, Clayton," Hogan said, "How'd you do?"

"Ben was only focused on himself," Jones said, back at Oakland Hills for the US Open 45 years later. "I kept telling myself what Hogan said – to focus on each shot and not to worry about the outcome. I honestly don't think I could have won without reading that book."

There are further parallels with Hogan's career. Late in 1991, Jones was involved in a bike accident which kept him off the tour for almost three years. A persistent finger injury led to him developing his reverse overlap grip. In January, Jones is favourite to receive the US tour's comeback award. It is named after Hogan.

The anecdotal style of instruction book was pioneered by Harvey Penick and his Little Green Book series. Two of Britain's foremost golfing figures teamed up to produce *Golf in a Nutshell* (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.99). The wisdom and wit of John Jacobs, Ryder Cup player and captain, founder of the modern European tour and the guru of golf gurus, was committed to paper with the help of another master of his craft, the late Peter Dobereiner.

The subtitle is "The flight of the ball tells it all" and despite its modest length and price, this book flies long and high, drawing in the browser for an extended visit. The shortest passage is headed "Hopeless cases" and reads: "The only people whose golf cannot be improved are those who won't listen." Jacobs once told a very young Seve Ballesteros to cure his "rock-and-block" action or he would develop back trouble later on.

Evidently the Spaniard took no notice and after winning three Opens and two Masters has suffered severely in the lumbar region. But had Ballesteros eradicated all the push-fades and the snap-hooks early on, we may not have been gifted with *Troubleshooting* (with Robert Green, Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99).

Here are all the old favourites – escapes from trees and bushes, left-handed, back-handed and one-handed shots. But the earlier chapters may be of more use. The fundamentals of grip, stance and alignment are stressed and learning how to play from all manner of sloping lies and from sand will aid any golf game.

Laura Davies Naturally... (with Lewine Mair, Bloomsbury, £16.99) has both instructional and also biographical sections. In the former the world No 1 describes what can be learnt from watching the leading players while the latter offers details of both golf and gambling. Davies also appears as one of 50 biographies in Liz Kahn's history of the women's game, *The LPGA: The Unauthorized Version* (AA Publishing, £16.99). Although the superstars are all covered, the strength of the book is the equal space given to the stories of the less heralded.

Helen Dettweiller was a pilot in the Women's Air Force during World War Two and became the first woman radio baseball commentator; Betty Dodd nursed Zaharias in the final years before her death from cancer aged 42; Sandra Haynie was Martina Navratilova's mentor when she won her first Wimbledon. Subjects as diverse as racism, Christianity, glamour and lesbianism are all sensitively handled.

Also recommended: *A Good Walk Spoiled* by John Feinstein (Little, Brown & Co, £8.99, paperback version) – the opening two chapters provide stomach-churning insight into the Ryder Cup; *The Open Championship 1996* (Hazleton Publishing, £14.99) – day-by-day accounts and essays on Tom Lehman's triumph at Royal Lytham; *The Lazy Golfer's Companion* by Peter Alliss (Collins Willow, £12.99) – practical guide to getting the best out of your game; *The Greatest of them All – The Legend of Bobby Jones* by Martin Davis (The American Golfer, £40) and *Life & Times of Bobby Jones* by Sidney L Matthew (Sleeping Bear Press, £35) – large-scale tributes to the great amateur with evocative photography.

Academy vote still wide open

Sports politics

The Government yesterday kept its options wide open by placing exactly half of the bids to establish and run the British Academy of Sport on the second stage shortlist.

It had been expected that the 26 initial bids would be reduced to seven or eight. But the Sports Minister, Iain Sproat, and the United Kingdom Sports Council chairman, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, yesterday unveiled a surprisingly large list of 13.

Among the favourites are the British Olympic Association bid, the Central Consortium and the "Athletes' Bid". It is planned that the winning bid will be announced early next year, when a formal application for Lottery funding will be made.

BAS SHORTLIST: The Athletes' Bid (Hertfordshire); Bath; Birmingham West Midlands; BOA (Upper Heyford); Central Consortium (Loughborough, Nottingham, and Lilleshall); De Montfort University (Leicester, Bedford); Houghton Grange (Huntingdon); Kent Thanescide; Manchester; Merseyside; Sheffield; Sports City Foundation (Kettering); UK Academy 2000 (Yorkshire).

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE

FA Carling Premiership

1 Leeds v Tottenham 1

Also playing (not on coupons): Liverpool v Middlesbrough, Wimbledon v Blackburn. **Playing Sunday:** Sunderland v Chelsea. **Playing Monday:** Derby County v Everton.

Nationwide Football League

First Division

2 Barnsley v Tranmere X
3 **Postponed:** *Birmingham v WBA 1
4 **Postponed:** *Bradford City v Reading ..1
5 Charlton v Port Vale 1
6 Norwich v Crystal Palace X
7 Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd 2
8 Portsmouth v Huddersfield 1
9 QPR v Southend 1
10 Stoke v Swindon 2
11 Wolves v Oldham 1

Second Division

12 Bournemouth v Millwall X
13 Burnley v Brentford X
14 Gillingham v Bury 2
15 Luton v Crewe 1
16 Notts County v Rotherham 1
17 Plymouth v Shrewsbury X
18 Stockport v Peterborough 1
19 Walsall v Watford X
20 Wycombe v Chesterfield 2

Also playing (not on coupons): York v Wrexham. **Playing Friday:** Preston v Blackpool. **Playing Sunday:** Bristol City v Bristol Rovers.

Third Division

21 Brighton v Hull City 2
22 Cambridge Utd v Wigan X
23 Chester v Darlington X
24 Fulham v Leyton Orient 1
25 Hereford v Carlisle 2
26 Lincoln City v Northampton 1
27 Mansfield v Colchester 2
28 Rochdale v Hartlepool X
29 Scunthorpe v Exeter X
30 Torquay v Scarborough X

Friday: Postponed: Doncaster v Cardiff.

GM Vauxhall Conference

31 Dover v Northwich 2

Also playing (not on coupons): Farnborough v Slough, Gateshead v Bath, Halifax v Morecambe, Hednesford v Hayes, Kidderminster v Kettering, Rushden v Bromsgrove, Southport v Altrincham, Stalybridge v Macclesfield, Stevenage v Telford, Welling v Woking.

Bell's Scottish League

Premier Division

32 Aberdeen v Motherwell 1
33 Hibernian v Dundee Utd X
34 Kilmarnock v Hearts 2
35 **Postponed:** *Raith v Celtic 2
36 Rangers v Dunfermline 1

First Division

37 Dundee v Stirling 1
38 Falkirk v Morton 1
39 St Mirren v Partick X

Postponed: Airdrie v St Johnstone

Second Division

40 Brechin v Queen of the South 2
41 Dumbarton v Hamilton X
42 Livingston v Ayr X
43 **Postponed:** *Stenhousemuir v Clyde ..2
44 Stranraer v Berwick 1

Third Division

45 **Postponed:** *Albion v Ross County 2
46 East Stirling v Cowdenbeath 2
47 **Postponed:** *Forfar v Alloa 1
48 Inverness Cal Thistle v Montrose 1
49 Queen's Park v Arbroath 1

* Pools panel adjudications.

Also playing (not on coupons): Tennents Scottish Cup first round: Albion Rovers v Forfar, Huntly v Clyde.

Four draws: Norwich v Crystal Palace, Burnley v Brentford, Hibernian v Dundee United, Livingston v Ayr.

Five aways: Sheffield United, Hull City, Hearts, Queen of the South, Cowdenbeath.

Ten homes: Leeds, Queen's Park Rangers, Wolves, Notts County, Fulham, Aberdeen, Falkirk, Stranraer, Inverness CT, Queen's Park.

RACING RESULTS

HUNTINGDON

12.30: 1. SURREY DANCER (G Lee) 6-4 fav; **2. Fontanaya** 7-1; **3. Added Dimension** 16-1. 9 ran. 1½, 3½. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). **Tote:** £2.00; £1.10, £1.40, £4.40. Dual Forecast: £5.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £11.44. Trio: £47.40.

1.00: 1. SUGAR HILL (P Hide) 9-2; **2. Sildorfhill** 8-1; **3. Amber Spark** 3-1 fav. 15 ran. 3½, shd. (J Gifford, Findon). **Tote:** £4.30; £1.50, £2.90, £2.10. Dual Forecast: £12.60. CSF: £39.98. Trio: £19.10. Non Runner: Falloo.

1.30: 1. SHARPICAL (M A Fitzgerald) 5-1; **2. Moonax** 8-13 fav; **3. Penrose Lad** 12-1. 18 ran. 1½, ¾. (N Henderson, Lambourn). **Tote:** £8.60; £1.90, £1.20, £2.70. Dual Forecast: £6.60. CSF: £9.62. Trio: £30.10.

2.00: 1. RIVER LEVEN (R Dunwoody) 3-1 co fav; **2. Amber Valley** 12-1; **3. Jymjam Johnny** 11-2. 7 ran. 3-1 co fav Brazil Or Bust, 3-1 co fav Serious. 9, ½. (D Gandolfo, Wantage). **Tote:** £4.10; £1.40, £3.10. Dual Forecast: £15.30. CSF: £31.41.

2.30: 1. MOST EQUAL (R Hughes) 4-1; **2. Albemine** 9-1; **3. Menelaus** 9-2. 9 ran. 15-8 fav Matus (4th). ¾, 19. (M Pipe, Wellington). **Tote:** £5.40; £1.90, £3.40, £1.30. Dual Forecast: £26.20. CSF: £39.72. Tricast: £158.74. Trio: £35.80.

3.00: 1. EAST HOUSTON (R McGrath) 4-1; **2. Judicial Field** 3-1; **3. Viaggio** 20-1. 7 ran. 9-4 fav At The Grove (fell). 21, 13. (J J O'Neill, Penrith). **Tote:** £4.70; £2.10, £2.00. Dual Forecast: £3.90. CSF: £15.57.

3.30: 1. STRONG MINT (G Lee) evens fav; **2. Feebee Five** 14-1; **3. Bessie Browne** 16-1. 16 ran. 2, 5. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). **Tote:** £2.00; £1.10, £3.10, £5.10. DF: £24.00. CSF: £20.83. Trio: £136.50. **Jackpot:** £37,325.20. **Quadpot:** £28.20.

Placepot: £69.30.

Place 6: £59.41. **Place 5:** 36.12.

PLUMPTON

12.40: 1. EMERALD STATEMENT (G Hogan) 4-7 fav; **2. Sioux To Speak** 8-1; **3. Mazirah** 20-1. 9 ran. 16, ½. (D Grissell). **Tote:** £1.60; £1.10, £1.60, £3.50. Dual Forecast: £4.90. CSF: £6.67. Trio: £15.30.

1.10: 1. KAYFAAT (A P McCoy) 9-4 fav; **2. Slightly Special** 33-1; **3. Water Hazard** 13-2. 8 ran. 14, 12. (M Pipe). **Tote:** £2.80; £1.80, £6.00, £1.90. Dual Forecast: £78.40. CSF: £49.82. Tricast: £366.49. Trio: £13.80. Non Runners: Griffin's Girl, Ruth's Gamble.

1.40: 1. BEATSON (B Powell) 11-4; **2. Mr Mett** 7-2; **3. Beau Bebillard** 5-2 fav. 6 ran. 9, 7. (R Buckler). **Tote:** £4.10; £1.90, £1.60. Dual Forecast: £7.10. CSF: £10.95.

2.10: 1. URBAN LILY (J Harris) 10-11 fav; **2. Fairelaine** 5-4; **3. Robin Island** 33-1. 5 ran. 24, dist. (R Hodges). **Tote:** £1.60; £1.00, £4.40. Dual Forecast: £1.70. CSF: £2.26.

2.40: 1. JURASSIC CLASSIC (M Richards) 6-1; **2. King Corbitts** 33-1; **3. Celtic Town** 11-4 fav. 9 ran. 2, dist. (Mrs L Richards). **Tote:** £8.80; £1.50, £3.60, £1.40. Dual Forecast: £66.10. CSF: £128.92. Tricast: £602.83. Trio: £58.10.

3.10: 1. COPPER COIL (J Power) 10-1; **2. Lough Tully** 4-1 fav; **3. Miss Secret** 25-1. 10 ran. 1½, 12. (W Turner). **Tote:** £12.80; £2.80, £1.40, £4.10. Dual Forecast: £33.10. CSF: £47.22. Tricast: £900.84. Trio: £72.60.

3.40: 1. ISMENO (A Dicken) 8-1; **2. Stoney Valley** 7-1; **3. General Mouktar** 4-6 fav. 7 ran. 4, 5. (S Dow). **Tote:** £10.90; £4.80, £1.90. Dual Forecast: £33.30. CSF: £55.96.

Placepot: £34.10. **Quadpot:** £14.30.

Place 6: £36.44. **Place 5:** 24.70.

SEDGEFIELD

12.20: 1. SUTHERLAND MOSS (J Callaghan) 13-8 fav; **2. Grand Cru** 11-4; **3. Basincroft** 50-1. 9 ran. 5, 24. (T Tate, Tadcaster). **Tote:** £2.30; £1.10, £2.00, £27.70. Dual Forecast: £6.40. CSF: £6.01. Trio: £114.50 (part won). Non Runner: King Fix.

12.50: 1. PAPERSING (A Dobbin) 8-11 fav; **2. Real Glee** 4-1; **3. Emi** 16-1. 9 ran. 9, 7. (G Richards, Greystoke). **Tote:** £1.90; £1.10, £1.80, £3.80. Dual Forecast: £3.00. CSF: £4.74. Trio: £7.90.

1.20: 1. TROODOS (J Supple) 9-4 fav; **2. Minettia** 7-1; **3. Act The Wag** 9-1. 9 ran. 1½, 9. (Mrs A Swinbank, Richmond). **Tote:** £2.00; £1.50, £2.20, £2.20. Dual Forecast: £10.30. CSF: £17.73. Tricast: £110.96. Trio: £37.40.

1.50: 1. MISTER TRICK (R Garritty) 7-1; **2. Aylesbury Lad** 33-1; **3. Senora d'Or** 20-1. 16 ran. 3-1 fav Springhill Quay (4th). 6, 10. (L Lungo, Carrutherstown). **Tote:** £11.30; £3.50, £9.90, £7.50. Dual Forecast: £100.70. CSF: £194.60. Trio: not won.

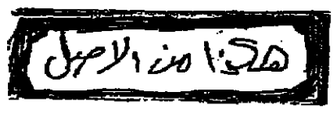
2.20: 1. WEAVER GEORGE (M Moloney) 4-1; **2. Rebel King** 6-1; **3. Reve de Velee** 7-2 jt fav. 8 ran. 7-2 jt fav One For The Pot (4th). 4, 8. (W Storey, Consett). **Tote:** £5.50; £1.30, £1.10, £2.70. Dual Forecast: £6.00. CSF: £25.33. Tricast: £81.82.

2.50: 1. DAWN LAD (J Supple) 6-1; **2. Juke Box Billy** 4-1; **3. Kilfulla** 14-1. 11 ran. 3-1 fav Son of Iris (4th). 7, 3½. (Mrs A Swinbank, Richmond). **Tote:** £7.30; £1.90, £1.60, £1.50. Dual Forecast: £8.70. CSF: £29.31. Tricast: £301.42. Trio: £77.70.

3.20: 1. COURT JOKER (B Storey) 12-1; **2. Pangeran** 10-1; **3. Bowcliffe** 12-1. 12 ran. 5-2 fav Durano. hd, 1½. (N Alexander, Co Durham). **Tote:** £9.20; £4.40, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £78.30. CSF: £127.60. Tricast: £1,384.40. Trio: £129.50 (part won).

Placepot: £219.40. **Quadpot:** £108.10.

Place 6: £109.47. **Place 5:** £71.26.



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Knight gives England reasons for optimism

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Bulawayo
England 199-3 v Matabeleland

A timely century by Nick Knight against Matabeleland, scored in the last over of another rain-drenched day, will have given the England tourists a much needed fillip, in their faltering preparations for next week's internationals against Zimbabwe. Only another early dismissal for their captain, Michael Atherton, left them with cause for concern, on a damp day that saw England rattle up 199 for 3 from the 54 overs of play possible.

In the first-class cricket played so far on this tour, the England captain has faced 54 balls and scored 13 runs. Not ideal, but then Atherton is very much a big match performer, who saves his sapping levels of concentration almost exclusively for Test matches.

In truth, batting was never going to be easy after overnight rain and a 9.40am start on a freshly cut pitch. Having been put in, the England batsmen had to overcome some generous seam movement early on. Something Knight accomplished with watchful aplomb, before asserting himself as both ball and pitch lost their venom.

Starting his tally tentatively with an airy swat at Henry Olonga's bouncer, he soon progressed to the bold strokes that also define his paintings, though last Monday's effort – of Cecil Rhodes' grave in the Matopo hills – is, he insists, "staying in the bag".

"I'm more positive in my attitude now," said Knight, who has now scored four hundreds in England colours over the last four months, including one in the Headingley Test against Pakistan where he batted at No 6.

"When I went to Warwickshire I got a lot of confidence out of what was going on there. I was encouraged to play my shots and I think I've developed a more attacking game which has worked for me."

Occasionally though, he is prone to attack when set and in command, and he was twice dropped on 68 and 78, after scything at off-side deliveries from the luckless Mpumelelo Mbangwa.

However, he was not the only bowler for Matabeleland who bowled well and Olonga troubled England with his new ball spell when he pitched the ball up. And three overs after winding Atherton with a lifter that thudded into his ribcage, he plucked the England skipper's middle stump out with a beauty, that swung late past the outside edge.

Olonga, who has a curious golden tinted fringe of junior dreadlocks, may well open the bowling in the first Test. He certainly looked more dangerous than Heath Streak, his new ball partner here, who is only recently recovered from flu as well as a long-term groin problem. On the evidence yesterday, Streak is having problems with his run-up and looks woefully short of match bowling in general.

Alec Stewart, no doubt startled by his comparatively late arrival at the crease in the fifth over, played almost as fluently as he did during the second half of last summer. At least he did until a flat-footed slash ended up in third slip's hands.

Olonga's attempts to unnerve the Surrey skipper with a flurry of bouncers – after an early throat ball sat him on his backside – were met with sublime disdain and were closely followed by the distinctive clang of cricket ball on rustproof boundary boards. A vital necessity when half an inch of rain can fall in a couple of hours turning dry outfield to marsh, as it did at Bulawayo Athletic club yesterday.

Thankfully as far as England's preparation was concerned, the ground dried enough for play to resume and a further 35 overs were possible. Enough time for Nasser Hussain to remind us of his thrilling off-side repertoire, even if a repeat of one handsomely struck cover driven boundary, found the edge, ending instead in the keeper's, Wayne James' gloves.

England are still not as convincing as they might be with the bat. But thanks to Knight's well-judged knock on a restless pitch, they are at last looking free of their condemned-men demeanour.

(First day of four; Matabeleland won toss)
ENGLAND – First Innings

N V Knight not out	100
*M A Atherton b Olonga	4
†A J Stewart c G J Whittall b Streak	39
N Hussain c James b Olonga	38
G P Thorpe not out	5
Extras (b1, lb4, w1, nb7)	13
Total (for 3, 54 overs)	199

Fall: 1-14, 2-100, 3-185.
To bat: J P Crawley, R C Irani, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell.
Bowling: Olonga 10-2-42-2; Streak 10-1-39-1; G J Whittall 8-3-16-0; Mbangwa 13-2-46-0; Rennie 4-0-17-0; Vaghmaria 3-0-9-0; A R Whittall 6-1-25-0.
MATABELELAND: G J Whittall, M H Dekker, M Ranchod, D Vaghmaria †W R James, M D Abrams, *J A Rennie, H H Streak H K Olonga, A R Whittall, M Mbangwa.
Umpires: R Tiffin and C Coventry.

Azharuddin in charge

India 237 & 270-5
South Africa 177

An unbeaten 88 by Mohammed Azharuddin put India in charge as their overall lead swelled to 330 runs on the third day of the third and deciding Test against South Africa in Kanpur yesterday.

Azharuddin punished the South African attack, hammering 15 boundaries as India, starting the day at 7 for 1 for an overall lead of 67 runs, reached 270 for 5 at the close. South Africa scored 177 in reply to India's first-innings total of 237.

Azharuddin, who scored a brisk hundred plus a half century in the second Test, added 71 runs for the fifth wicket with his captain, Sachin Tendulkar. India, who have not lost a home series since their 1986-87 loss to Pakistan, won the opening Test in Ahmedabad, but South Africa levelled the series with a crushing 329-run victory in Calcutta.

Third day; India won toss
INDIA – First Innings 237 (S R Tendulkar 61, W V Raman 57; P R Adams 6-55).
SOUTH AFRICA – First Innings 177 (A Kumble 4-71; J Srinath 3-42).
INDIA – Second Innings
(Overnight: 7 for 1)

†N R Mongia lbw b Klusener	18
A Kumble c Gibbs b De Villiers	42
S Ganguly c McMillan b Symcox	41
*S R Tendulkar c Richardson b Klusener	36
M Azharuddin not out	88
R S Dravid not out	33
Extras (b4 lb5 nb1)	10
Total (for 5, 94 overs)	270

Fall: 1-2 2-41 3-91 4-121 5-192.
Bowling (to date): De Villiers 21-10-49-2 (2nb); Klusener 22-6-62-2; McMillan 16-6-36-0; Cronje 10-4-15-0; Adams 12-0-57-0; Symcox 13-1-42-1.
Umpires: S Venkataraghavan (Ind) and D R Shepherd (Eng).

Mike Atherton loses his middle stump yesterday Photograph: Chris Turvey

Butcher misses century again

MYLES HODGSON
reports from Brisbane
England 170-7 v Queensland

Mark Butcher again failed to reach three figures as England A struggled to combat a lively Gabba pitch on the first day of their final tour match yesterday.

The Surrey left-hander, who has passed 50 seven times in 13 tour innings, had once again looked set to reach the milestone but his two-and-a-half hours of defiance was finally ended at 72 with a bat-pad catch off the left-arm spinner Paul Jackson, before a violent storm abruptly ended play with an hour to go in the final session.

The Yorkshire trio of Michael Vaughan, Anthony McGrath and Craig White fell in quick succession to put the tourists in trouble at 39 for 3. But Jason Gallian, playing his first innings since cracking his right index finger three weeks ago, scored 26 before becoming the third of four victims for paceman Brendan Creevey on his first-class debut. The captain, Adam Hollioake, was trapped lbw without scoring by seamer Scott Prestwidge.

First day; Queensland won toss
ENGLAND A – First Innings

M A Butcher c Cassell b Jackson	72
M P Vaughan c Barsby b Creevey	0
A McGrath c Law b Muller	1
C White c Seccombe b Creevey	24
J E R Gallian lbw b Creevey	26
*A J Hollioake lbw b Prestwidge	0
M A Ealham not out	32
†W K Hegg c Law b Creevey	3
A F Giles not out	1
Extras (lb6, nb5)	11
Total (for 7, 66 overs)	170

Fall: 1-6, 2-9, 3-39, 4-99, 5-114, 6-147, 7-164.
To bat: G Chapple, D W Headley.
Bowling: Muller 17-5-41-1; Creevey 18-4-41-4; Prestwidge 12-2-45-1; Law 5-2-14-0; Jackson 14-6-23-1.
QUEENSLAND: T J Barsby, T J Dixon, J P Maher, *S G Law, M P Mott, J L Cassell, †W A Seccombe, S A Prestwidge, B N Creevey, P W Jackson, S A Muller.
Umpires: P D Parker and J F Torpey.

Ojomoh has to prove himself all over again

Rugby Union

Steve Ojomoh leads England A against their South African counterparts at Gloucester tonight, insisting that he is still good enough for senior international rugby.

Bath's new pack leader has filled all three England back row positions during an 11-cap Test career stretching back to February 1994. But he has never strung more than three games together, often being the unlucky "fourth man" behind Dean Richards, Ben Clarke, Tim Rodber, Lawrence Dallaglio and now, Chris Sheasby.

The Saracens pair, Tony Diprose and Richard Hill, are also lurking menacingly, leaving Ojomoh once again with everything to do.

"I've been playing well all season, but it is strange because I cannot really understand what's going on," he said.

"I will play anywhere in the back row. That bit doesn't bother me. But I have to prove myself again, even though I keep on doing so."

Ojomoh, 26, is revelling in his role of leading the Bath forwards, handed to him for October's European Cup showdown with the French club Dax once Andy Robinson could no longer pin down a regular first-team place.

Those qualities will be required when he captains a young, inexperienced shadow England side against South Africa's highly competent A selection at Kingsholm.

It is a far cry from three summers ago, though, when Ojomoh emerged as England's outstanding forward during a drawn Test series with the Springboks.

Only one Five Nations appearance ensued the following season – as replacement for Richards against Scotland – then came a World Cup supporting role, and finally France in Paris last January – a 15-12 defeat. He has won no caps since.

"The back row is a funny old area. You're only as good as your last game, especially in this country where there are so many guys to pick from," he said.

"It is probably more competitive than ever at the moment, but I refuse to accept that my international career is over."

The Gloucester game is the second of three England A fixtures in four days, their busy programme concluding against unbeaten Queensland at Gateshead on Friday night, when they will be without the Bristol captain, Martin Corry.

The 23-year-old flanker, who limped off in the closing minutes of Bristol's 15-13 defeat against Wasps at Loftus Road on Saturday with an ankle injury, had already withdrawn from the England A side to face Argentina at Northampton last night.

The inspirational club captain could also be ruled out of Bristol's rescheduled league game at home to Leicester tomorrow week. His absence would be a major blow to the West Country side who are struggling in the relegation zone, two points adrift of their neighbours Gloucester, who they face on December 29.

"The good news is that it is just tendon trouble rather than ligament damage," Corry yesterday.

Stewart delighted by Scotland call-up

The Northampton tight-head prop Matt Stewart is still trying to come to terms with his surprise selection to the Scotland side for Saturday's Murrayfield meeting with Italy.

The 23-year-old is one of three changes to the team which finished the recent game against Australia, with the British Lions lock Andy Reed making a return after a two-year injury absence, while the record cap holder, Scott Hastings, is recalled at centre.

An Army lance corporal, Stewart, who has been chosen primarily for his strength, was initially picked for the Scotland Development XV to play Queensland, but two days later he was promoted to the senior squad. "I was delighted even when I was chosen for the Development side but over the moon when I was called up for the senior squad," he said. "I fully expected to be on the bench. But winning a first cap is great."

Stewart's attributes have been carefully noted by the Scotland selectors. The coach, Richie Dixon, said: "Matt has been under our observation for some time. He is proving to be a solid tight-head and has shown good technique in the line-out."

Bryan Redpath, who took over from the injured Gary Armstrong late in the second half against Australia, retains his place at scrum-half. There is also a positional change with the captain Gregor Townsend winning his 21st cap, albeit at inside centre, the first time he has worn the No 12 jersey. At outside-centre Hastings, dropped for the Australia Test, will win his 63rd cap following an improvement in form.

Doddie Weir has been omitted after a poor display against Australia. Dixon said: "Doddie's work rate against Australia was not as great as it might have been. We talked to him about this and, like the player he is, he has taken our words on board."

SCOTLAND (v Italy, Murrayfield, Saturday): R Shepherd (Melrose); A Stanger (Hawick), S Hastings (Watsonians), G Townsend (Northampton, capt), K Logan (Stirling County); C Chalmers (Melrose), B Redpath (Melrose); D Hilton (Bath), K McKenzie (Stirling County), M Stewart (Northampton), D Cronin (Wasps), A Reed (Wasps), M Wallace (Glasgow High/Kelvinside), E Peters (Bath), I Smith (Gloucester). Replacements: D Stark (Melrose), R Eriksson (London Scottish), D Patterson (Heriot's FP), G Weir (Newcastle), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), G Ellis (Currie).

ITALY (from): Backs: M Cuttitta, D Dominguez, I Francescato, G Guidi, L Manteri, F Mazzariol, N Mazzucato, J Pertile, A Troncon, P Vaccari. Forwards: O Arancio, A Castellani, C Checchinato, W Cristofoletto, G Croci, M Cuttitta, M Giovanelli (capt), A Moscardi, C Orlandi, F Properzi-Curti, A Sgorlon.

Virus throws Newbury into confusion

The Rugby Football Union are expected to decide in the next 48 hours whether Newbury's Pilkington Cup match against Lydney will go ahead on Saturday.

The second-row forward Andy Newsham yesterday became the eighth player at the Berkshire club to fall ill with a bacterial infection and the Division Four South side have become increasingly concerned about the outbreak.

The Lydney manager, Gordon Sargent, said: "The problem with postponing the match is that it would lead to a fixture pile-up. I am sure Newbury would prefer the match to be played but our players' health has to be our first concern and of course we will abide by the RFU's decision."

Newbury's director of rugby, Terry Burwell, added: "We hoped we had contained the outbreak over the weekend but we now hear Andy is ill."

The eight players, all forwards, are suffering from the same strain of staphylococcus bacteria, which brings the victim out in boils. Newsham and hooker Julian Brammer, who is also ill, both played for the Combined Services against the touring Argentina side last week.

Vogts must cope without Strunz

Football

Germany's squad for Saturday's tricky World Cup qualifier in Portugal was hit by another withdrawal yesterday when the versatile Bayern Munich midfielder Thomas Strunz pulled out with influenza.

The late withdrawal is a blow to the European champions, who will also be without the midfielders Mehmet Scholl and Thomas Hässler, defender Thomas Helmer, reserve goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and striker Oliver Bierhoff – the hero of the Euro 96 final – in Lisbon. The squad, which is due to fly to Portugal tomorrow, has been reduced to 19.

The Portuguese have a special place in the history of German football. They are the only team ever to have beaten the Germans in a World Cup qualifier, winning 1-0 in Stuttgart in October 1985. The Germans have not lost to the Portuguese since and beat them 2-1 in a friendly in Porto in February.

The libero Matthias Sammer and wing-back Christian Ziege, who missed Germany's frustrating 1-1 draw at home to Northern Ireland last month, are now available. Bayern Munich's in-form midfielder Mario Basler, who was part of the Euro 96 squad but did not make an impact because of injury, can now expect to be given an important role in midfield.

The superb form of the Bayer Leverkusen striker Ulf Kirsten in the first half of the season has been rewarded with a place in the squad, but VfB Stuttgart's Fredi Bobic is expected to join the captain, Jürgen Klinsmann, up front.

Spain have an injury crisis in midfield prior to Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Yugoslavia in Valencia. With Atletico Madrid's Jose Luis Caminero already out, the Spanish coach, Javier Clemente, is now faced with losing Real Madrid's Fernando Hierro and Athletic Bilbao's Julen Guerrero.

Hierro, an automatic choice in Spain's midfield or defence for the past six years, limped off in Saturday's league game against Barcelona. With Guerrero nursing four stitches in a leg wound, there could a be starting role for Roberto Rios of Real Betis. Deportivo La Coruña's Armando Alvarez has also been called up.

SPORTING DIGEST

Adams ready to go to court

Cricket

The Derbyshire batsman Chris Adams yesterday threatened to go to court to win his release from the county.

The 26-year-old has offered to buy out the remaining two years of his contract for £50,000 and, if Derbyshire reject his offer, he is prepared to go to the European courts in his quest to move to another county.

Adams insists his reasons for wanting to leave the county have nothing to do with money. "I am ambitious and I want to play for England," he said. "I believe it is far harder to be picked for England as a Derbyshire batsman than it is as a Derbyshire bowler. Kim Barnett is Derbyshire's greatest batsman and John Morris the most talented, but they only played seven Tests between them."

Adams first asked to leave Derbyshire two years ago, but was told then that he had to see out his contract.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
Dunfermline v Hibernian
Hearts v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Raith (7.45)
FIRST DIVISION
East Fife v Morton
Airdrie v Clydebank
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
Morecambe v Gateshead (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bishop Auckland v Accrington Stanley. Challenge Cup third-round replay: Boston Utd v Hyde. President's Cup first-round replay: Blyth Spartans v Spennymoor.
DR MARTENS CUP Second round: Corby v Raunds (7.45); Evesham v Moor Green; Salisbury v Newport IoW; Sittingbourne v Baldock (7.45); St Leonards Stamcroft v Margate.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Floodlit Trophy second round: Prescot Cables v Clitheroe; Rossendale v Atherton Collieries.
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Soham v Wisbech (7.45).
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Calne v Taunton (7.45).
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Huntly v Peterhead.
LEAGUE OF WALES Gilbert League Cup second round second leg: Caersws (4) v Welshpool (4); Ebbw Vale (0) v Barry (0); Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff (0) v Carmarthen (1); Ton Pentre (0) v Briton Ferry (4).
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE First Division: Carrick Rangers v Ballymena; Distillery v Ballyclare Comrades.
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bolton Wanderers v Tranmere Rovers (7.0). First Division: Coventry v Leicester (7.0) (at Nuneaton Borough); Huddersfield v Middlesbrough (7.0); West Bromwich v Blackpool (7.0) (at Halesowen Town). Second Division: Burnley v Wrexham (7.15); Hull v York (7.0); Rotherham v Manchester City (7.0); Stockport v Carlisle (6.45). Third Division: Chester v Lincoln (7.0); Wigan v Scarborough (7.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Charlton v Crystal Palace (2.0); Portsmouth v Ipswich (7.0); Tottenham v Swansea (at St Albans City); West Ham v Bournemouth (2.0) (at Upton Park); Wimbledon v Brighton (2.0) (at Plough Lane).
FA YOUTH CUP Second round: Tranmere Rovers v Grimsby Town (7.0); Manchester City v Walsall; Leyton Orient v Bristol City (7.0); Southampton v Tottenham Hotspur; Enfield v Gravesend & Northfleet; Colchester Utd v West Ham Utd (7.0). Second-round replays: Swindon Town v Torquay Utd; Sheffield Utd v Bolton Wanderers (7.0).

Rugby Union

7.30 unless stated

TOUR MATCH: England A v South Africa A (at Gloucester).
ANGLO-WELSH CUP Pool 2A: London Irish v Newbridge.
HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Derbyshire v Shropshire (at Derby); Greater Birmingham v Worcester & Hereford (at Moseley).
TIPP-EX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Norfolk v Cambridgeshire (at North Walsham); Suffolk v Essex (7.30) (at Colchester).
CLUB MATCHES: Cheltenham v RAF (7.0); Reading v High Wycombe (7.0).

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester Riders v Manchester Giants (8.0).

American football

Jeff Hostetler threw three touchdown passes as the Oakland Raiders overwhelmed Kansas City 26-7 on Monday to keep the Chiefs from clinching a play-off berth. Hostetler completed 13 of 27 passes for 150 yards as the Raiders won their third straight game to improve their record to 7-7 and keep their own slim play-off hopes alive.

Baseball

Alex Fernandez, granted his free agency by the sport's new collective bargaining agreement, signed a five-year deal with the Florida Marlins on Monday believed to be worth about $35m.

Basketball

NBA: Philadelphia 94 Seattle 118; Vancouver 91 Charlotte 107.

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC DIVISION				
Miami	15	5	.750	–
New York	12	6	.667	2
Orlando	8	8	.500	5
Washington	7	10	.412	6½
Philadelphia	7	12	.368	7½
New Jersey	4	11	.267	8½
Boston	4	14	.222	10
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	17	3	.850	–
Detroit	15	3	.833	1
Cleveland	12	6	.667	4
Atlanta	11	8	.579	5½
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	6
Charlotte	10	9	.526	6½
Indiana	8	9	.471	7½
Toronto	7	12	.368	9½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
MIDWEST DIVISION				
Houston	17	2	.895	–
Utah	16	2	.889	½
Dallas	7	11	.389	9½
Minnesota	7	12	.368	10
Denver	5	15	.167	13½
San Antonio	2	9	.182	7
Vancouver	3	18	.143	15
PACIFIC DIVISION				
Seattle	16	6	.727	–
LA Lakers	15	7	.682	1
Portland	12	8	.600	3
LA Clippers	7	13	.350	8
Golden State	7	13	.350	8
Sacramento	7	13	.350	8
Phoenix	4	14	.222	10

England's hopes of breaking an eight-game losing streak against Germany on 18 December have been hit by the former NBA player John Amaechi's withdrawal from the 10-man squad for the European Championship semi-final group game. However, England, who cannot now qualify for a place in next summer's final round in Spain, will be boosted by the return of Spencer Dunkley and Ian Whyte.

ENGLAND SQUAD (European Championship semi-final round v Germany, 18 Dec, Leipzig): N Austin (London), S Bucknall (Kaiklis), R Baker (Leopards), S Dunkley (Besançon), D Herriman (Trieste), R Huggins (Sheffield), I McKenzey (Sheffield), P Scantlebury (Thames Valley), J Swaine (Sheffield), I Whyte (Besançon).

Cricket

Allan Donald has told Warwickshire that he expects to be fully fit to return to Edgbaston as the county's overseas player next summer. The South African fast bowler confirmed he is recovering well from the heel injury which forced him to withdraw from the final Test in the current series in India.

FIRST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL (Faisalabad; third day of four): Pakistan 256 and 123; England 230 and 99 for 3 (D Sales 47).

Cycling

Russia's Yevgeny Berzin will attempt to beat Chris Boardman's world one-hour record next year. Berzin's Batik team director, Emanuele Bombini, said: "We don't know where we will try and set the new record. It should be at the end of August or early September. The attempt will be in two stages, one outdoor and one indoor." Boardman set his mark of 56.3759km in Manchester on 6 September.

Football

Everton's FA Cup third-round match against Swindon at Goodison Park has been switched to Sunday 5 January to avoid a clash with the Liverpool v Walsall or Burnley tie the previous day.

Doncaster Rovers have appointed the former Northampton and Blackpool manager Graham Carr as their new assistant manager to replace Andy King, who left the club last week.

The veteran goalkeeper John Burridge has joined Scarborough on non-contract terms.

Barnsley have taken the Raith Rovers captain Shaun Dennis to Oakwell for a week's trial. The 26-year-old central defender wants a move from Stark's Park after 10 years with the Bell's Scottish League side.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Fixture changes: Sat 21 Dec: Livingston v Queen of the South (from 26 Dec).

GERMANY SQUAD (v Portugal, World Cup Group Nine, Lisbon, Saturday): Goalkeepers: Köpke (Marseille), Reck (Werder Bremen). Defenders: Babbel (Bayern Munich), Kohler, Reuter, Sammer (all Borussia Dortmund), Wörns (Bayer Leverkusen). Midfielders: Basler (Bayern), Bode, Eilts (both Werder Bremen), Heinrich, Möller (both Dortmund), Tarnat (Karlsruhe), Wosz (Bochum), Ziege (Bayern). Forwards: Bobic (Stuttgart), Herrlich (Dortmund), Kirsten (Leverkusen), Klinsmann (Bayern).

ASIAN CUP Group A (Abu Dhabi): United Arab Emirates 2 (H Ahmed 14, Al Talyani 65) Indonesia 0; South Korea 0 Kuwait 2 (Al-Houwaidi 60, Abdul Aziz 87).

FA CUP Third-round draw: Stevenage v Birmingham City; Barnsley v Oldham Athletic; Chesterfield v Bristol City; Barnet or Wycombe Wanderers v Bradford City; Wolves v Portsmouth; Plymouth Argyle v Enfield or Peterborough; Hednesford Town v York City; Middlesbrough v Chester City; Wrexham or Scunthorpe Utd v West Ham; Luton Town v Bolton Wanderers; Sheffield Wednesday v Grimsby Town; Manchester Utd v Tottenham; Stoke City v Stockport County; Queen's Park Rangers v Huddersfield Town; Coventry City v Woking; Notts County v Aston Villa; Reading v Southampton; Crystal Palace v Leeds Utd; Everton v Swindon Town; Gillingham v Derby County; Chelsea v West Bromwich Albion; Carlisle Utd v Tranmere Rovers; Brentford v Manchester City; Charlton Athletic v Newcastle Utd; Blackburn Rovers v Port Vale; Crewe Alexandra v Wimbledon; Norwich City v Sheffield Utd; Liverpool v Walsall or Burnley; Leicester City v Southend Utd; Arsenal v Sunderland; Watford v Oxford Utd; Nottingham Forest v Ipswich Town. Ties to be played 4 or 5 January.

PREMIERSHIP AND FIRST DIVISION SUSPENSIONS: Sendings off: T Adams (Arsenal) 1 match from 14 December; B Van Gobbel (Southampton) 1 match from 14 December; A Newhouse (Wimbledon) 3 matches from 16 December. 21 Penalty points: J Edinburgh (Tottenham) 2 matches from 16 December; F Leboeuf (Chelsea) 2 matches from 15 December; D Hutchison (Sheff Utd) 2 matches from 14 December; R Liburd (Bradford) 2 matches from 14 December; A Todd (Bolton) 2 matches from 14 December; G Taylor (Sheff Utd) 2 matches from 17 December.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Nottingham Forest 0 Newcastle Utd 0. Auto Windscreens Shield Northern Section first round: Chesterfield 0 Preston 2. FA Umbro Trophy Third qualifying round: Postponed: Buxton v Grantham. Third qualifying round replay: Dulwich 3 Dartford 1. FA Carlsberg Vase Second round: Tow Law 5 Murton 2. Isis League First Division: Bognor Regis 4 Chesham 1. Dr Martens League Cup Second round: Worcester 1 Racing Club Warwick 1. Pontins League Premier Division: Stoke City 2 Liverpool 0. Second Division: Mansfield 0 Grimsby 5. League Cup Group Two: Barnsley 1 Huddersfield 0. Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Chelsea 3 Watford 0; Luton 0 Oxford Utd 2; QPR 0 Arsenal 7; Swindon 1 Bristol Rovers 3. FA Youth Cup Second round: Rushden 2 Southend 2 (replay 16 December); Millwall 1 Gillingham 0. Spanish League: Hercules 3 Sevilla 0. Asian Cup Group C (Al-Ain, UAE): Japan 4 Uzbekistan 0; China 3 Syria 0.

Hockey

CHAMPIONS TROPHY (Madras) Fourth day: Pakistan 2 Spain 2; Netherlands 1 India 1; Germany 3 Australia 1. Standings after 3 rounds: 1 Netherlands 7pts; 2 Germany 6; 3 India 4; 4 Pakistan 4; 5 Spain 2; 6 Australia 1.

Rugby League

Salford Reds have protested to the Rugby Football League over £10,000 owed by Wigan for the Great Britain prop, Terry O'Connor. Wigan signed O'Connor two years ago for £75,000, plus a further £10,000 after his debut for Great Britain which he made on this autumn's southern hemisphere tour.

Rugby Union

VARSITY MATCH (Twickenham): Cambridge University (13) 23 Oxford University (7) 7. Cambridge: Tries Singer 2; Cons Sumdgo 2; Pens Sumdge 2; Drops Singer. Oxford: Tries Walsh; Cons Avers.

Sailing

Icebergs and gales are keeping the crews of the 14 yachts in the BT Challenge busy on the second leg from Rio to Wellington. The leg one winner, Mike Golding (Group 4), continues to lead by 10 miles from Andy Hindley (Save the Children). The top six are separated by 58 miles and first and last – Boris Webber (Courtaulds) – by 241. Golding has 3,500 miles to go.

Christophe Augin, having seen both Isabelle Autissier, now restarted from Cape Town, and Yves Parlier crippled by gear failure, is out on his own in the Vendée Globe singlehanded non-stop round the world race. As Parlier limps to Perth, Australia, Britain's Pete Goss (Aqua Quorum) is effectively seventh and, having been forced south in snow and poor visibility, has now been able to turn east.

Snooker

GERMAN OPEN (Osnabrück) Tenth round: A Robidoux (Can) bt J Ferguson (Eng) 5-1.

Tennis

The Grand Slam Cup winner, Boris Becker, was yesterday named to replace Andre Agassi in the eight-man field for the Colonial Classic at Kooyong, scheduled for 8-11 January.

TODAY'S NUMBER

41

The number of runs that Mike Atherton, the England captain, has scored in five innings so far while on tour in Zimbabwe.

SNOW REPORT

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Snow reports

Resort	Comment	Area open	Last snow	Lwr cm	Upp cm	Forecast
ANDORRA						
Pas de la Casa	Fresh and powdery	100%	10.12	80	130	More snow
Soldeu	Good cover on upper runs	85%	10.12	25	120	More snow
AUSTRIA						
Ellmau	Powdery snow	100%	8.12	30	50	Clear
Ehrwald	Dry snow	100%	3.12	50	150	Part cloudy
St Anton	Good skiing, limited area	40%	2.12	75	85	Cloudy
CANADA						
Lake Louise	Loose packed powder	99%	7.12	95	100	Clear
Whistler	Soft packed snow	100%	10.12	185	195	Cloud/snow
FRANCE						
La Plagne	Great conditions high up	25%	2.12	100	185	Unsettled
Les Deux Alpes	Firm packed snow	50%	1.12	120	280	Cloudy
Val d'Isère	Packed dry snow	50%	2.12	105	250	Unsettled
ITALY						
La Thuile	Good dry snow cover	80%	2.12	90	230	Cloudy
Madesimo	Dry, firmly packed snow	70%	28.11	30	180	Unsettled
SWITZERLAND						
Davos	Excellent early season	75%	3.12	70	160	Part cloudy
Grindelwald	Packed dry snow	50%	3.12	40	80	Dry/cloudy
UNITED STATES						
Copper Mtn	Powder/packed powder	85%	10.12	100	110	Snow s'hwrs
Crested Butte	Powder/packed powder	90%	10.12	95	120	Cloud/snow

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DIRECT

A new arrival
Derick Allsop at the launch of Jackie Stewart's F1 car, page 22

sport

Shining Knight
Derek Pringle on England's progress against Matabeleland, page 23

Robson gives Emerson vote of confidence

Football
NICK DUXBURY

Middlesbrough's patience with the errant Emerson continued to show little sign of wearing thin yesterday, with Bryan Robson turning what was expected to be a carpeting session with the Brazilian into an attack on the player's advisors.

Not only had Emerson been badly advised during his three unathorised absences abroad in the last month, but the Boro manager intends playing the midfielder in the Premiership game at Liverpool on Saturday.

"Emerson has not had the right advice and I don't think he has handled the situation as well as he could have done," Robson said of the £4m signing Boro believe has been attempting to force a transfer to Barcelona or Parma. "But footballers are only human. As a club, we will do our best to make Emerson and his wife happy in the area.

"I had a brief chat with him today but we need to sit down with him and his wife to iron out any problems. The situation cannot be resolved today as there are a lot of factors involved."

Emerson, who has reportedly lost £90,000 in stopped wages, returned to training after arriving back on Teesside on Sunday with his wife, Andrea.

"The session went well. Emerson needs more training to get into shape but has natural fitness," Robson said. "I will consider him for the weekend. I need to as we are running out of players through injuries."

Emerson went back to Brazil last month because Andrea was homesick, and he threatened to quit English football for good. Then at the weekend, he indicated he would return to England once his wife had recovered from a bout of depression.

He was as good as his word, and Andrea is understood to be ready to furnish medical records to prove she was ill if it helps her husband's cause.

The Middlesbrough chairman, Steve Gibson, and Robson had stressed they are prepared to throw the book at the former Porto player if he does not see out his contract.

Paulo Futre, West Ham's Portuguese international striker, has been forced to retire after being plagued by a persistent knee injury.

The Hammers signed the 30-year-old on a free transfer from Milan in the summer in the knowledge Futre was unfit. The former Porto, Sporting Lisbon, Benfica and Atletico Madrid player has barely managing to play this season.

"My sports career is over," Futre said. "I said many years ago that I would never drag myself around the soccer field."

John Scales, Tottenham's £2.6m signing from Liverpool, may play 45 minutes for the reserves against Swansea tonight to see whether is is fit enough to make his full debut at Leeds United on Saturday. The central defender, who rejected Leeds at the last minute to join Spurs, has a slight groin strain.

"There is no question of pulling him out – if he's fit, he plays," Gerry Francis, the Spurs manager, said, well aware of the hostile reception Scales can expect at Elland Road."

Scales has no regrets about his change of heart: "It was a tough decision between Spurs and Leeds, but I'm sure I've made the right choice," he said.

Clive Walker is staying at Woking. The FA Cup giant-killers have blocked his move to Conference rivals Rushden & Diamonds, who had offered the 39-year-old striker a lucrative new two-and-a-half year contract and a coaching post.

Saints sell The Dell, page 16; More football, page 31

Notley faces FA's wrath

Jay Notley, the Charlton Athletic teenager, faces the wrath of the Football Association next Monday after testing positive for a cocktail of cannabis, cocaine and ecstacy when he gave a training-ground sample last month.

Although the youngster is only a trainee at The Valley, he seems certain to face a heavy punishment.

The Huddersfield striker Craig Whitington was banned from the game for six months in April after testing positive for cannabis for the second time in a month. Two months earlier, the Orient defender Roger Stanislaus was given a year's ban after a sample he gave produced a positive result for cocaine.

Both were subsequently sacked by their clubs and Notley, suspended immediately pending the hearing after the test result was known, could suffer the same fate on Monday at Lancaster Gate. Notley is not the first Charlton youngster to fall foul of the FA's "drug-busters". In 1995, Lee Bowyer – now a £2.6m England Under-21 international with Leeds – and Dean Chandler failed cannabis tests.

Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham striker, was left out of the Crystal Palace side on FA instruction in 1995 after testing positive for cannabis, while Paul Merson spent six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic in 1994 after his admission of cocaine-taking and alcoholism.

The Atletico Madrid midfield player Diego Simeone could be banned for up to 12 games if found guilty of violent play after stamping on Julen Guerrero's leg during Sunday's league match at Athletic Bilbao.Guerrero needed four stitches in the wound after the incident, which has produced widespread condemnation of the Argentinian international.

Motor racing tempts Ginola

A change of country and a change of career could spell the end of David Ginola's time at Newcastle United.

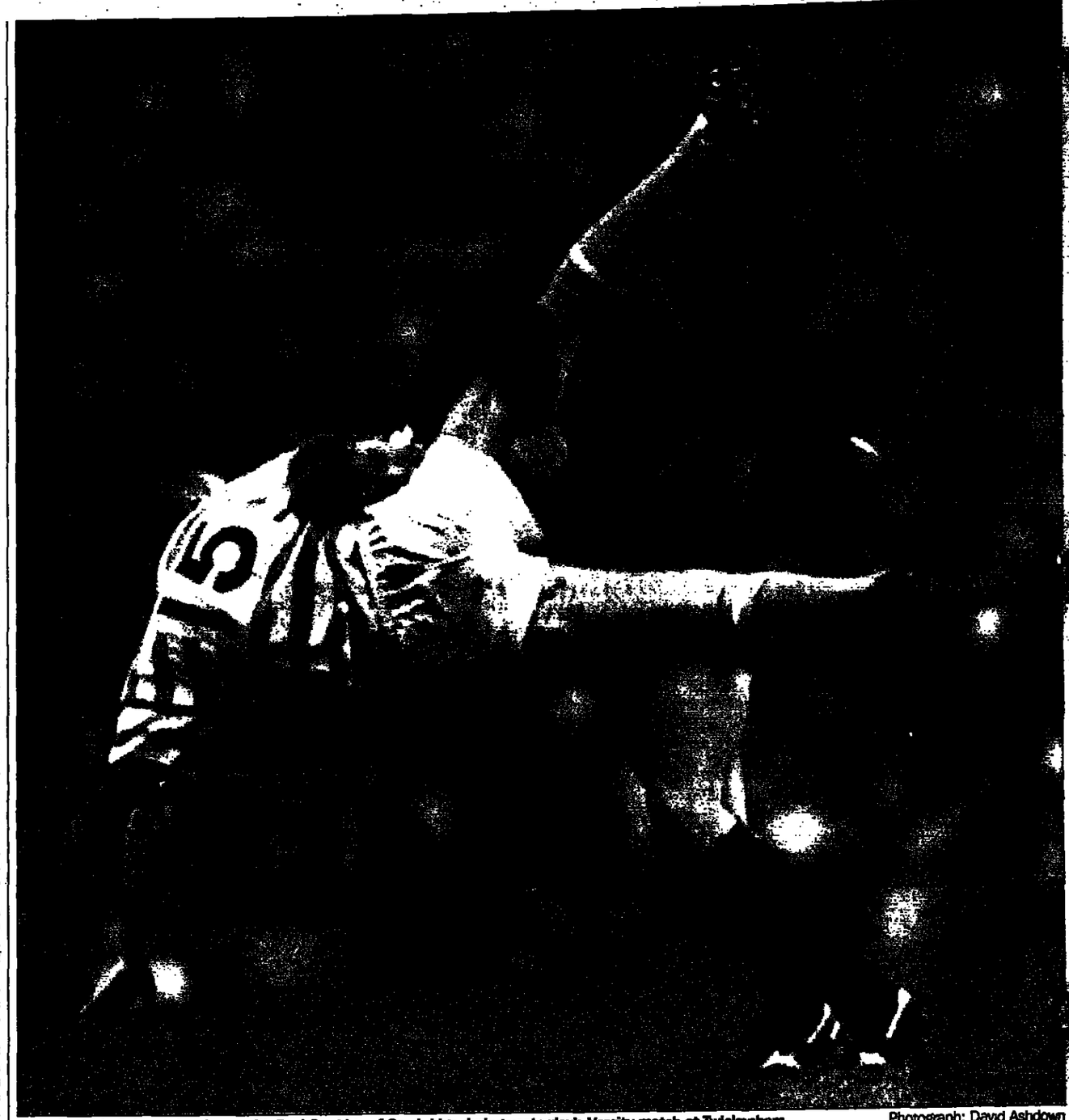
This season could be the Frenchman's last in the Premiership – should he swap flying down the wing for charging round a race track.

The 29-year-old winger, who is the star of a new television advertisement for Renault entitled "Ginola Stays", said yesterday: "You should not read too much into the commercial's slogan, because you never know what might happen at the end of the season.

"It is not easy to come to another country and work, because you miss your family and friends and your normal way of life," he added. "Sometimes I miss home – and I feel for the Brazilians at Middlesbrough because it is not easy."

Ginola is also involved in talks with Renault about racing in next year's British Touring Car Championship, and is to test drive a car next week with the leading Swiss sports car racer, Alain Menu.

"I love motor racing and I want to do some pro driving, but it depends on getting the go-ahead from Newcastle because of their insurance policy on me," Ginola said.



Oxford's Kevin Spicer takes issue with Paul Surridge of Cambridge during yesterday's Varsity match at Twickenham Photograph: David Ashdown

Light Blues stem emotional tide

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWETT

Oxford University	7
Cambridge University	23

In the end, the tears said it all. Any magic that might have surrounded the 115th Varsity match evaporated into thin air when Ian Tucker, the Oxford University centre from Sydney, lost his life to the sport he loved six weeks ago, but it was not until an hour after the final whistle that the reality emerged.

With the hype and hullabaloo of the occasion finally behind him, Quentin de Bruyn, the Oxford captain, charged with the unenviable task of rebuilding his side in the face of tragedy, managed to combine eloquence with obvious emotion as he put recent events into much-needed perspective.

"Ian was the best tackler in the side, the fittest and most motivated guy we had," he said. "When we lost him, the emotional life of all of us stopped for three days. It was a matter of all being there for each other; personally speaking, I couldn't face spending a second alone. I couldn't go to sleep thinking that when I woke, everything would be OK. It wasn't like that. There was no end to the tunnel.

"We had lost our best player and the effects of what happened meant that we played poor rugby for two or three games. Poor rugby becomes a habit and it was only relatively recently that we were able to break it. Effectively, we had to prepare for this game in the space of three weeks, so I'm proud to think that we went out there and gave everything we possibly could in memory of Ian."

It was a touching address, all the more impressive for the fact that it was delivered by a man suffering from concussion. De Bruyn, taken off on a stretcher with his head encased in a protective brace after mis-timing a tackle on the Cambridge scrum-half Ben Ryan early in the second half, could remember nothing of the circumstances of his own injury. But Steve Hill, the Oxford coach, confessed to an "awful feeling in the pit of my stomach", adding: "My thoughts went straight back to Ian when I saw Quentin lying there."

Perhaps appropriately, there was little for the 74,000 Twickenham crowd to enthuse about on so bleak and mournful an afternoon. Cambridge, led superbly by Richard Bramley, were so superior at scrum and line-out that their opponents, starved of both possession and field position, were unable to add to Trevor Walsh's charge-down try in the fourth minute.

What little brilliance there was came from the Light Blues centre Matthew Singer who scored two tries of a quality that bore no relation to virtually everything else that happened in terms of attacking rugby. Ironically, the 24-year-old mathematician considers the midfield to be alien territory – "I'm a full-back first and foremost," he admitted afterwards – although the coaching staff at Saracens, where he has played since leaving Neath last year, may now address that apparent incongruity as a matter of urgency.

His first try on 36 minutes, followed three minutes later by the sharpest of drop goals, came from a double dart off his left foot; the second, clinching score seven minutes from time came off his right. With Bramley's tight five in complete control, it was more than enough.

"I can honestly say that I wasn't too concerned when we went behind so early – the way we've started this season, I was surprised we held out so long," joked Bramley, whose intense scrummaging bore the same stamp of ferocity as his single-minded captaincy. "I knew we had Oxford on the back foot in the set-pieces and while that advantage seldom manifests itself early on, it really does tell in the last 10 minutes."

As acute tactical summaries go, it was spot on. But just for once, an appreciation of the finer arts of bump and grind meant about as much as the final scoreline. That is to say, nothing at all.

Oxford: Try Walsh; Conversion Avens. **Cambridge:** Tries Singer 2; Conversions Surridge 2; Penalties Surridge 2; Drop goal Singer.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R Maher (St Ignatius Coll, Sydney and University); C Smart (Sherborne and Trinity), Q de Bruyn (Diocesan Coll, Cape Town and Keble, capt), T Walsh (St Joseph's Coll, Brisbane and Keble), R Browne (St Michael's College, Dublin and Univ); J Avens (Bristol Cathedral Sch and St Cross), N Hogan (Terenure Coll, Dublin and Merton): J Bothwell (Marlborough and Merton), N Hockley (King Edward's Sch, Birmingham and Worcester), D Penney (Mt Pearl Sen High Sch, Newfoundland and Wolfson), T Elsenhager (St Ignatius Coll, Sydney and St Anne's), N Spicer (Clongowes Wood Coll, Dublin and St Anne's), M Orsler (King's Canterbury and Christchurch), C McCarthy (St Mary's Coll, Dublin and Templeton), J Kindon (Millfield and Queen's). Replacement: T Jensen (St Edmund's Canberra, St Anne's) for De Bruyn, 53.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: P Surridge (St Kentigern Coll, NZ and Hughes Hall); M Walker (Caerleon Comp and St Catharine's), M Singer (Wycliffe Coll and Homerton), N Hill (St Ignatius, Sydney and St Edmund's), B Phillips (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhan and Homerton); R Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), B Ryan (Wimbledon Coll and Homerton); G Reynolds (Chesham Sch and Homerton), T Murphy (St Joseph's Coll, Nudgee, Australia and St Edmund's), N Holgate (Armthorpe Comp, Doncaster and Robinson) R Bramley (Q Elizabeth GS Wakefield and St Edmund's capt), A Craig (Tauranga Boys Coll, NZ and Hughes Hall), M Hyde (St Ignatius Coll, Sydney and St Edmund's), J Griffiths (Crossley Heath, Halifax and St Edmund's), R Earnshaw (Yarm Sch and St John's).

Referee: J Pearson (Durham).

The kings capitulate

Cricket

The West Indian tour of Australia grows more embarrassing every match. Yesterday it was the turn of a scratch invitation side led by a retired Test captain to put the former "kings of cricket" to the sword.

The 58-run defeat against the Prime Minister's XI at Canberra's Manuka Oval was the sixth straight defeat in Australia for the West Indies, who trail 2-0 in the five-Test series against the host nation and have lost both their opening matches in the World Series limited-overs tournament.

The Prime Minister's XI of Sheffield Shield players, led by the former Australian captain Allan Border, scored 258 for 8 from their 50 overs. They then restricted the West Indies to 200 for 9 from 43.4 overs. The last man, Patterson Thompson, was injured and unable to bat.

Brad Young took 4 for 46 for the Prime Minister's XI while the all-rounder Andrew Symonds, who is at the centre of an eligibility row between Australia and England, made his contribution with 2 for 7 from 10 balls at the end of the innings, after earlier scoring 33 before being run out.

Robert Samuels was the top scorer for the West Indies, making 45 using a runner, while Brian Lara managed 32 before being bowled by Young.

Ian Harvey was named man-of-the-match after he scored 55 not out from 41 balls and also took a wicket. The Australian Test aspirant Matthew Hayden made 45 and shared an opening partnership of 113 with Dene Hills, who scored 52.

The West Indies captain, Courtney Walsh, was disappointed again with the quality of his side's batting, claiming that players who reached twenty should have made fifty.

"It was a good game of cricket but we didn't play well. Our batting didn't have any conviction or confidence," he said.

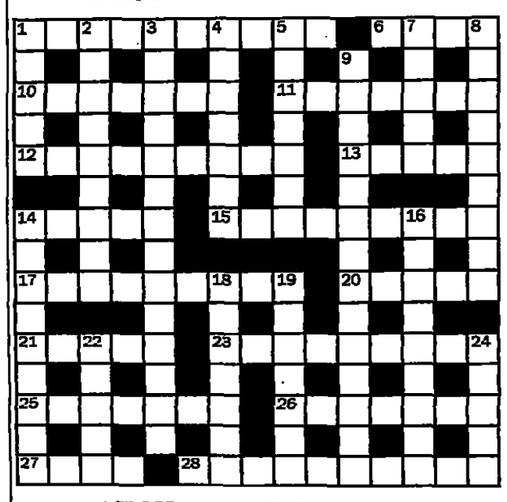
The veteran fast bowler said his side conceded about 30 runs because of poor fielding. "The way we are playing at the moment, we can't afford to give anything away," Walsh added. The West Indies next play Australia A in a day-night match in Melbourne on Friday.

TOUR MATCH (Canberra, One day): Australian Prime Minister's XI 258 for 8 (50 overs, I Harvey 55no); West Indies 200 for 9 (43.4 overs). Prime Minister's XI won by 58 runs.

■ A Test and County Cricket Board spokesman, Richard Little, yesterday confirmed the Lord's view on the Symonds affair by insisting that, if the talented youngster turns out for Australia A on Friday, it will prevent him playing for Gloucestershire next season. Our view is that if he plays for Australia A he would then no longer meet the registration requirements that we have in this country," Little said. "But it won't really become an issue until he actually plays for Australia A. It's down to him and he knows the situation only too well."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

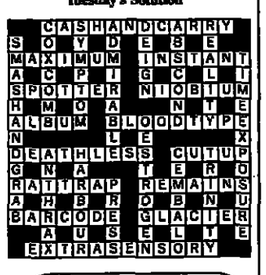
No. 3167. Wednesday 11 December — By Aquila



ACROSS
1 South, for example, one of Cezanne's subjects (4-6)
6 Idle lump (4)
10 Better half more affected – more distant? (7)
11 Cut off one, in consequence, overdue (7)
12 23 risk following motorway south? (9)
13 Overturn shape on wheel (5)
14 Heavenly house with dreariest interior (5)
15 Make allowances for aunt, struggling in Exeter, a bit short (9)
17 Enhanced effect of snow on grass, perhaps? (9)
20 Affected by current, boy takes it back (5)
21 Descartes with work to take up again (5)
23 Bad luck with concrete poetry? (4,5)
25 Figure of Conservative visiting constituencies? (7)
26 Iris – one turning out to be more strident (7)
27 Stock check (4)
28 Keep firm grip (10)

DOWN
1 American cannon using three balls in all? (5)
2 Release engineers to lead assignment (9)
3 Up the crow's-nest, in a storm, use force (3,3,6,2)
4 Fix gunners up with place to practise (7)
5 National Trust to support English colliery which is famous (7)
7 How happy people walk when broadcasting (2,3)
8 Coast where fee may be ordered before long (9)
9 Luck has a strong impact in divination (7-7)
14 Cab starts unexpectedly and steals away (9)
16 Instruction to musician – as well as nation, possibly (9)
18 Come into fashionable Erith, for a change (7)
19 As music dies away, increased number nod off (7)
22 Name in the past or now? Not now! (5)
24 Run into Slough for a ribbon (5)

Tuesday's Solution



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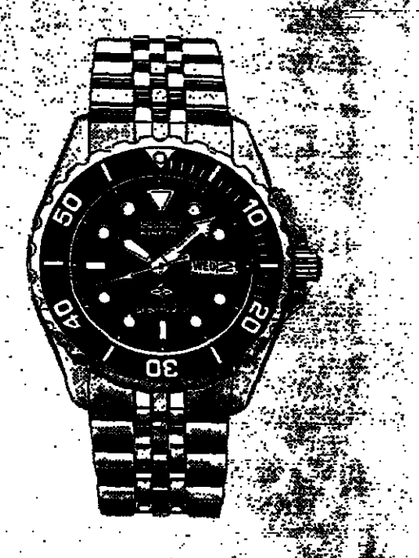
Good-bye battery



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